

# Fundamental rights of children displaced in the EU following the Russian war of aggression

Hungary

June 2023

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the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights (OCFR)

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# 1. Children fleeing Ukraine

## 1.1. Data on children fleeing Ukraine

**Table 1 Children fleeing Ukraine**

Category of child	Registration system Y/N	Number of children (as disaggregated as possible) (as of 30 April 2023 unless otherwise specified)
Overall number of children	Y	<p>14 940 (7702 boys, 7188 girls, 50 unknown) had been granted temporary protection status according to the National Directorate-General for Aliens Policing (hereinafter: NDGAP).<sup>1</sup></p> <p>In total 444 818 children were registered in <b>Hungary</b> by the National Police Headquarters (hereinafter: Police) at the Hungarian-Ukrainian border during this period.</p> <p>In <b>Hungary</b>, UNHCR estimates that approximately 40 to 50% of the total number of persons holding a TP status (32,345) as of 30 April 2023.</p>
Arrived accompanied by mother, father or another legal guardian	Y	In Hungary, according to the Police 444 812 children were accompanied by their relatives (registered border crossings). <sup>2</sup>
Arrived without parents, but with other family members, neighbours or family friends	Y	N/A
Arrived unaccompanied	Y	32 children – 17 boys, 15 girls

<sup>1</sup> Information received via email on 13 June 2023 from the Ministry of Interior in **Hungary**.

<sup>2</sup> Information received via email on 13 June 2023 from the Ministry of Interior in **Hungary**.

		<p>2022: 23 children arrived</p> <p>2023 (until 30 April): 9 children who has or had been placed in the Children's Home for Unaccompanied Minors of the Károlyi István Children's Centre (hereinafter: Children's Home).<sup>3</sup></p>
Arrived within a group of children, as an organised evacuation from Ukrainian institutions or foster carers (with or without an appointed legal guardian)	N	In <b>Hungary</b> , the UNHCR added that no institutions from Ukraine were evacuated to the country.
Arrived within a group of children, through private initiatives, such as football clubs (with or without an appointed legal guardian)	N	In <b>Hungary</b> , the UNHCR is through its own assessment aware of approx. 175 children who arrived with a sport group in 10 different locations in Hungary. Most children, but not all, are accompanied by a coach / a caregiver who was appointed by the Ukrainian authorities as a legal guardian.

Source: Information received via email on 13 June 2023 via email from the Ministry of Interior in **Hungary**, and from the Hungarian Directorate-General for Social Affairs and Child Protection via email on 12 June 2023.

## 1.2. Crimes against children fleeing Ukraine and children going missing

**Table 2 – Serious crimes against children fleeing Ukraine and children going missing**

Issue / risk	Number of cases i) reported and ii) investigated
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<sup>3</sup> Information gathered from the Hungarian Directorate-General for Social Affairs and Child Protection via email on 12 June 2023.

Violence, including domestic violence	N/A
Sexual abuse	N/A
Trafficking for exploitation	N/A
Children reported as missing	N/A
Other crimes against children fleeing Ukraine	N/A

Source: [Type your source here.](#)

In **Hungary**, according to the Unified Investigation and Prosecutor's Office Crime Statistics (hereinafter: ENYÜBS) there have been a total of 11 criminal proceedings initiated due to a crime committed by a Ukrainian citizen under the age of 18. These are namely causing bodily harm (1), thefts (5), and endangering a minor (2) in 2022. In 2023 there has been theft (1), causing bodily harm (1) and road traffic related crime (1). It is important to highlight in the ENYÜBS, only the citizenship of the victim is provided, therefore there is no data regarding how many victims are registered as beneficiaries of temporary protection, or whether the crime is related to their status. The above written data have been gathered from investigations that have already been closed.<sup>4</sup>

In **Hungary**, according to the Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights of Hungary (hereinafter referred as: OCFRH) an investigation had been initiated concerning the institutions which are related to the service system regarding beneficiaries of temporary protection with a focus on children, persons with disabilities, elderly and minorities<sup>5,6</sup>. The OCFRH reports that 'suspicious' persons had been spotted at the border who approached single women, mothers and children. However, the government has ensured a swift, organised and effective response to these challenges, such as the Hungary Helps Program<sup>7</sup> which could be mentioned as a noteworthy initiative implemented by Hungary. Overall, the OCFRH reported that people arriving in Hungary were moved in organised, safe groups.

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<sup>4</sup> The Ministry of Interior provided the data in this paragraph via email on 14 June 2023.

<sup>5</sup> OCFRH Report on the activities of the commissioner for fundamental rights of Hungary and his deputies – 2022.

<https://www.ajbh.hu/documents/2657648/7632484/Éves+beszámoló+2022.pdf/bc5c99e1-cfb0-1c16-6a4b-034afe9a7a7f?version=1.0&t=1681298655503>

<sup>6</sup> OCFRH Report 1748/2022. report on the visit to the Children's Home of the Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County Child Protection Centre Mátészalka

[https://www.ajbh.hu/documents/10180/7255773/OPCAT+jelentés+a+Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg+Megyei+Gyermekvédelmi+Központ+Gyermekotthona+Mátészalka+látogatásával+összefüggésben+1748\\_2022.pdf/64093251-806e-fd99-b547-f58d2776bde4?version=1.0&t=1664369146309](https://www.ajbh.hu/documents/10180/7255773/OPCAT+jelentés+a+Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg+Megyei+Gyermekvédelmi+Központ+Gyermekotthona+Mátészalka+látogatásával+összefüggésben+1748_2022.pdf/64093251-806e-fd99-b547-f58d2776bde4?version=1.0&t=1664369146309)

<sup>7</sup> <https://hungaryhelps.gov.hu/the-hungary-helps-program/>

## 2. Child protection – legal, policy framework and procedures in place

### 2.1. Responsibilities of child protection authorities

#### 2.1.1. Individual children, including unaccompanied and separated children

The County Police Headquarters could be the first entry point to the child protection system. The police are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and will involve the guardianship authorities in cases of children at risk of trafficking, including unaccompanied minors. After the identification of unaccompanied children – primarily during their entry at the border, arrangements are made for their temporary placement in the designated child protection institution, which is the Children’s Home (carrying out the concerned tasks in the Children’s Home is in the competence of Hungarian Directorate-General for Social Affairs and Child Protection). In the framework of child protection care, unaccompanied minors receive care of the same nature and quality as Hungarian children, taking into account their specific needs (e.g. providing interpretation). The Hungarian institutional system does not make a difference between unaccompanied and separated children.

In **Hungary**, the UNHCR highlighted that according to Art. 4 (1) of the Child Protection Act<sup>8</sup>, temporary protection status holders are neither included nor explicitly excluded from the scope of the Act. Applicants and beneficiaries of temporary protection are eligible for specialized childcare services (“gyermekvédelmi szakellátás”) in case they are endangered or at risk, including those identified as unaccompanied children. Basic child welfare care and welfare services (“gyermekjóléti alapellátás”, “gyermekjóléti szolgáltatás”) as well as other specific services specified under the Child Protection Act are not available to beneficiaries of temporary protection, unless otherwise prescribed through emergency legislation.

Services available in detail:

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<sup>8</sup> Act XXXI of 1997 on the Protection of Children and Guardianship Administration (hereinafter: Child Protection Act) <https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/1997-31-00-00>

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- Sure Start Children's House ('Biztos Kezdet Gyerekház'): Provide prevention services that supports the healthy development of children with sociocultural disadvantages and helps the parents and the children who have not yet attended kindergarten to catch up with society.
- day care for children ('Gyermekek napközbeni ellátása'): Covers, among others, nursery care, daytime babysitting, alternative day care arrangement. However, due to administrative hurdles, the day cares in practice request a social security number (TAJ) from the TP status holders, which TP holders are not entitled to. Therefore, the service is in practice not available to TP holders.
- Specialized child protection services ('gyermekvédelmi szakellátások'): Includes foster care, childcare institutions, after care and juvenile justice facilities.

### **2.1.2. Children evacuated from Ukrainian institutions**

Not applicable for Hungary.

## **2.2. Safeguards and measures addressing risk of violent crimes against children fleeing Ukraine**

### **2.2.1. Safeguards to protect and defend children from crimes**

In the institutional system of child protection services many safeguards are in place to protect the children in care from abuse, which is guaranteed by the strict occupational and personal suitability of the staff of the institution primarily, as well as the uniform treatment concerning child abuse.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Act XXXI of 1997 on the protection of children and the guardianship administration, <https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/1997-31-00-00>

Articles 84-91.



Children from Ukraine who hold a temporary protection status are in general part of the Hungarian Child Protection signalling system. The signalling system sets out the mandatory reporting requirements in case of a suspicion of an “endangerment” of a child (child at risk).<sup>10</sup>

## 2.2.2. Support for children victims of crimes

In **Hungary**, as the Ministry of Interior highlighted<sup>11</sup>, children placed in specialized child protection care and victims of abuse can participate in therapy, which operates in several places in the country and uses the Barnahus methodology. Special children's homes are available for the care of children who are victims of human trafficking. However, according to the Ministry of Interior in the case of unaccompanied minors of Ukrainian origin, these services have not been required within the reference period.<sup>12</sup> In the framework of legal assistance, the children and their parents may receive professional legal advice. According to Article 4 of Act CXXXV of 2005 on Assistance to victims of crime and state compensation<sup>13</sup>, the state provides help to the victim after assessing their needs. Accordingly, the services are as follows: advocacy; immediate financial assistance; proof of victim status; witness care; providing sheltered accommodation. Among the victim support services presented above, the promotion of advocacy and the provision of sheltered accommodation are particularly relevant for victims of human trafficking. In order to process traumatic experiences related to crime, sheltered accommodation run by non-governmental organizations provides a calm and safe environment and a wide range of services such as rescue and safe transport; providing a safe place (equipped with security cameras and security doors, designated escape route); care (food, clothing, bedding, medicines); covering certain costs (e.g. replacement of personal documents, transport); availability of a team of social workers, psychologists, lawyers; medical care; creation and operation of a crisis intervention home connected to the shelter maintained by the Hungarian Baptist Charity Service<sup>14</sup>. It shall be also highlighted that during the reporting period several joint trainings had been carried out including awareness-raising and prevention programs. It must be underlined that there is a strengthened cooperation between the judiciary and child protection in the implementation of procedural acts, which is based on the Icelandic Barnahus model.<sup>15</sup>

In **Hungary**, according to the UNHCR, despite falling under the signalling system, services to respond to the endangerment are limited.<sup>16</sup> In case of the ‘endangerment’ of a child, specialized child protection services are available for temporary protection status holders. Specialized

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<sup>10</sup> Overview of the Hungarian Child Protection Signalling System for Temporary Protection Holders  
<https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/100310>

<sup>11</sup> The contribution of the Ministry of Interior was received by email on 13 June 2023.

<sup>12</sup> The contribution of the Ministry of Interior was received by email on 13 June 2023.

<sup>13</sup> Act CXXXV of 2005 on assistance to victims of crime and state compensation,  
<https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2005-135-00-00>, Article 4

<sup>14</sup> A Baptista Szeretetszolgálat emberkereskedelem ellenes tevékenysége  
<https://www.baptistasegely.hu/emberkereskedelem-elleni-kuzdelem/a-baptista-szeretetszolgalat-emberkereskedelem-ellenes-tevekenysegerol>

<sup>15</sup> The contribution of the Ministry of Interior was received by email on 13 June 2023.

<sup>16</sup> A written contribution was received from the UNHCR via email on 4 July 2023.

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childcare services include placement of the child in alternative care arrangements and after care services. However, important child protection measures, such as the monitoring mechanism (“védelembe vétel”) are not available. Children from Ukraine who became a victim of crime are also eligible to apply for victim support services<sup>17</sup>, if they are represented by their parents or legal guardians.

## 2.3. Guardianship/legal representation arrangements for unaccompanied and separated children fleeing Ukraine

### 2.3.1. Arrived unaccompanied

As the Child Protection Act lays down, all minors placed in child protection services, including unaccompanied minors, are legally represented by a child protection guardian<sup>18</sup>, who is independent of the place of care (foster care, children's home)<sup>19</sup> and is a professional who performs this role exclusively<sup>20</sup>. The child protection guardian is appointed by the competent guardianship office from among the guardians employed by the National Child Protection Service in the capital. The legal representation of unaccompanied children placed at the Children's Home is always provided by a designated child protection guardian. The Legal Guardianship authority will – in cases of children travelling with adults that are not their parents – assess the relationship between the child and the accompanying adult, or in cases of children travelling alone or with their peers place the child in suitable childcare facilities and appoint a legal guardian. Otherwise, in all cases the Budapest Guardianship Office Guardianship Department can be contacted for advice from anywhere in the country via (1) 896-0468 or (1) 896-0469 [gyamugyi.fosztaly@bfkh.gov.hu](mailto:gyamugyi.fosztaly@bfkh.gov.hu)

### 2.3.2. Arrived without parents, but with other family members, neighbours or family friends

In **Hungary**, there is not distinction between unaccompanied and separated children, in line with the Temporary Protection Directive. However, in **Hungary**, the UNHCR observes that Child Protection authorities do not assess Ukrainian guardianship appointments and do not assess the

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<sup>17</sup> <https://vansegitseg.im.gov.hu>

<sup>18</sup> Child Protection Act, Article 11, paragraph 2

<sup>19</sup> Child Protection Act, Article 84, paragraph 2

<sup>20</sup> Child Protection Act, Article 84, paragraph 3, 5

best interest of the child.<sup>21</sup> Data about the numbers of such children have been requested from the authorities but was not yet shared.

### 2.3.3. Arrived within a group, from Ukrainian institution or foster carers (with or without an appointed legal guardian)

No specific data had been provided by the stakeholders. No institutions were evacuated to Hungary.

### 2.3.4. Arrived within a group, through private initiatives, such as football clubs (with or without an appointed legal guardian)

Since the onset of the war, many different sport teams came to **Hungary**. According to UNHCR's assessment<sup>22</sup> there are still approximately 175 children in Hungary in 10 different locations and different sport groups (such as Judo, soccer, circus, Hockey, swimming). Most children are accompanied by the coach of the team who was in most cases appointed as the legal guardian by the Ukrainian authorities.

## 2.4. Placement of unaccompanied and separated children fleeing from Ukraine

**Table 3 – Placement of unaccompanied and separated children**

Type of placement	Number of children	Details
With adult relatives		
With a foster family		
With person who looked after the child when fleeing		

<sup>21</sup> The contribution of the UNHCHR was received via email on 4 July 2023.

<sup>22</sup> The contribution of the UNHCHR was received via email on 4 July 2023.

In reception centres for unaccompanied children (all nationalities)	32	The Children's Home for unaccompanied minors of the Károlyi István Children's Centre has 36 places and accommodates children of all nationalities.
In reception centres for children fleeing Ukraine		
Other placement		

Source: Hungarian Directorate-General for Social Affairs and Child Protection, information received via email on 12 June 2023.

In Hungary, unaccompanied children are placed into a child-care facility close to Budapest which is also accommodating other non-Hungarian children. There is no specific facility to host children fleeing from Ukraine. Unaccompanied children are not channelled into the Hungarian foster-care system. In Hungary, the Children's Home has 36 places and welcomes children of all nationalities. It provides full residential care as defined in Article 45 paragraph 1 of the Child Protection Act (accommodation, meals, clothing, access to health care and education, mental health support). It also provides interpretation and translation services.<sup>23</sup>

## 2.5. Children evacuated from Ukrainian institutions

### 2.5.1. Institutional placements

Not applicable in Hungary.

### 2.5.2. Alternative care

Not applicable in Hungary.

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<sup>23</sup> Information received from the Hungarian Directorate-General for Social Affairs and Child Protection via email on 12 June 2023.

### 2.5.3. Safeguards for children placed in institutional care settings

Not applicable in Hungary.

### 2.5.4. Access to local services and support

People arrive with either a Ukrainian biometric passport or a Hungarian passport as having dual citizenship, or passport of another country being a citizen of a third country (e.g. people studying in Ukraine, i.e. legally residing there). People who have dual (from which Hungarian is one of them) citizenship are entitled to all the benefits and advantages to which they are entitled as beneficiaries of temporary protection unless they are treated more favourably due to their Hungarian citizenship.

## 2.6. Child-friendly information and means to ensure participation of children from Ukraine

### 2.6.1. Child friendly information

In **Hungary**, UNHCR is providing child-friendly information on children's rights via its site: Are you under 18 years old? - UNHCR Hungary<sup>24</sup>. The information is available in English and Ukrainian. Under its "Safe Online – A guide to be protected on the Internet"<sup>25</sup>-project, UNHCR developed specific information on the protection of children from online threats. The "Budapest Helps!" Info and Community Center<sup>26</sup> which is supported through IOM, UNHCR and the Budapest Municipality developed child-friendly information material about the rules on the usage of the centre.

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<sup>24</sup> UNHCR Hungary: Are you under 18 years old?  
<https://help.unhcr.org/hungary/are-you-under-18-years-old/>

<sup>25</sup> UNHCR Hungary: Safe Online – A guide to be protected on the internet  
<https://help.unhcr.org/hungary/safe-online/>

<sup>26</sup> UNHCR Hungary: "Budapest Helps!" Info and Community Center  
<https://help.unhcr.org/hungary/budapest-helps-info-and-community-center/>

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According to the OCFRH<sup>27</sup>, recognizing the diverse needs of the arrivals, the OCFRH's staff members have been providing individualized support to people of all ages, including organizing activities and providing supplies (e.g.: colouring books and toys on the spots) for children<sup>28</sup>.

## 2.6.2. Child participation

In **Hungary**, through the above-mentioned community centre, UNHCR reached 1.201 children (722 girls and 479 boys) between January and March 2023.<sup>29</sup>

UNHCR's partners provide activities for children, including recreational activities, robotics, children and adolescents' clubs and weekly arts and craft programs in the community centre, where children can share their ideas and feedback.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> Information was received from the OCFRH via email on 12 June 2023.

<sup>28</sup> OCFRH Report on the activities of the commissioner for fundamental rights of Hungary and his deputies – 2022. <https://www.ajbh.hu/documents/2657648/7632484/Éves+beszámoló+2022.pdf/bc5c99e1-cfb0-1c16-6a4b-034afe9a7a7f?version=1.0&t=1681298655503>

<sup>29</sup> Hungary: Community-Based Protection Achievements - Quarter 1 (Jan-March) 2023 <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/100354>

<sup>30</sup> Budapest Helps! Info and Community Center: Fresh July Program Schedule at the Budapest Helps! Info and Community Center [https://hungary.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd11591/files/press\\_release/file/2023-06/july-2023-program-schedule-at-the-budapest-helps.pdf](https://hungary.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd11591/files/press_release/file/2023-06/july-2023-program-schedule-at-the-budapest-helps.pdf)

## 3. Access to social rights

### 3.1. Access to health care

#### 3.1.1. Scope of medical care for children fleeing Ukraine

**Table 4 – Scope of medical care for children**

Scope of medical care for children	Y/N	Reference / details
Only emergency care/essential treatment of illnesses (Article 13.2 TPD)	Y	In possession of a residence permit issued by the NDGAP for humanitarian purposes, beneficiary of temporary protection can apply for the replacement of subsidized medicine/medical equipment and public medical care under the same conditions as Hungarian insured persons. In the reference period the total number of in or out-patient children was 7868, from which the number of emergency care was 1920. <sup>31</sup>
Complete medical check -up / health screening	Y	In possession of a residence permit issued by NDGAP for humanitarian purposes,

<sup>31</sup> Information was received from the Ministry of Interior via email on 13 June.

		the beneficiary of temporary protection can apply for the replacement of subsidized medicine/medical equipment and public medical care under the same conditions as Hungarian insured persons.
Mental health screening (PTSD, depression, anxiety)	Y	
Vaccinations for children	Y	
Mental health / psychosocial support	Y	<p>Significant capacities have been allocated in order to provide care for all those in need, from basic care to the treatment of the most serious diseases; both in the field of primary care and specialized outpatient and inpatient care. In addition, services related to maternal and infant health, immunization, child and adolescent health, mental health and psychosocial support are also provided at temporary care facilities, reception stations and reception points.</p> <p>For the sake of the social integration of children fleeing the war in Ukraine, their catch-up in education and training, their psychosocial support</p>



		and mental health care aimed at processing the traumas they have experienced. People fleeing from Ukraine may receive help at train stations and designated institutions immediately after arrival by volunteer psychologists. <sup>32</sup>
Children with disabilities and those with chronic illnesses have access to the medical care needed	Y	

*Source:* Information received from the Ministry of Interior via email on 13 June 2023 and from the OCFRH also via email on 12 June 2023.

According to the Ministry of Interior, the cost of the medical treatments is covered by the NDGAP or by the National Health Insurance Fund.<sup>33</sup>

According to information gathered from the OCFRH, efforts have been made to establish protocols to ensure the persons concerned receive necessary medical treatment and benefits on par with Hungarian citizens. Mobile health teams are available 24/7 at border assembly points to provide medical screening, care, testing, and hospital arrangements as required.

Persons concerned who are not covered by any social security systems are entitled to access certain healthcare services free of charge<sup>34</sup>. Such healthcare services includes the following:

- Primary healthcare;
- Age-specific compulsory vaccination;
- Out-patient care provided in emergency situations (examination, medical treatment, costs of medicine and dressings). Specialised healthcare services are available at the healthcare provider responsible for the region in question;
- In-patient medical care provided in an emergency situation (medical treatment, surgical operation, costs of medicine and dressings, etc.);
- Post-care examinations, medical treatment until the recovery from the illness or the stabilisation of the health conditions following the out-patient or in-patient medical care;
- Patient transportation services, if the patient's health condition excludes any other forms of transportation;
- Emergency dental care and tooth preservation treatment;

<sup>32</sup> Information was provided by the Ministry of Interior via email on 13 June 2023.

<sup>33</sup> Information received from the Ministry of Interior via email on 13 June 2023

<sup>34</sup> According to Articles 26-28 and 44 paragraph 2 of the Gov. Decree of 301/2007 (XI.9.) it is free of charge and no limitation in time is given in case of temporary protection status.

- Pregnancy and obstetrics care;
- Medicinal products, medicine prescribed under the fully subsidised public healthcare system to eligible persons free of charge, or with 90% or 100% subsidy;
- Oncology treatment, examination and medical treatment as part of other chronic patient care.

Children fleeing from Ukraine, who are in need of health care services are received by the Heim Pál National Paediatric Institute. Communication is assisted by a Ukrainian interpreter if necessary. Fast, professional and free of charge services are provided with a high standard hospital facility to children.<sup>35</sup> The available services include patient care, referrals, consulting, Covid-19 vaccinations, mandatory vaccinations to children, etc.

The specialists of the Psychological Crisis Child Outpatient Clinic provide help to the children concerning coping with stress, losses and bereavement involved by the war and abandoning their homes.<sup>36</sup> Heim Pál Children's Hospital's toll-free number, the Emergency Hotline (Sürgősségi Forró Drót), for questions related to children's health care (in-patient care, referrals, counselling, COVID-19 vaccination, missing and continuing mandatory vaccinations for children, etc.). Assistance is available any time of the day and in Ukrainian as well.<sup>37</sup>

The type of services that beneficiaries of temporary protection status have access to is set out in Gov. Decree 301/2007. (XI.9.) on the Implementation of the Law LXXX of 2007 on the right to asylum<sup>38, 39</sup>.

### 3.1.2. Challenges in practical provision

No specific data had been provided by the stakeholders.

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<sup>35</sup> Information gathered from the OCFHR via email received on 12 June 2023.

<sup>36</sup> Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights of Hungary, Important information for persons fleeing Ukraine

<https://www.ajbh.hu/en/web/ajbh-en/important-information-for-persons-fleeing-ukraine>

<sup>37</sup> <https://hintalovon.hu/en/2022/03/22/useful-sources-and-pages-for-helpers-of-kids-and-families-fleeing-ukraine/>

<sup>38</sup> Gov. Decree 301/2007. (XI.9.) on the implementation of the Law LXXX of 2007 on the right to asylum <https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2007-301-20-22>

<sup>39</sup> A detailed Q&A for refugees from UNHCR on access to health care, including on how to find a general practitioner can be found on <https://help.unhcr.org/hungary/help/health/>

Furthermore, detailed information can be found on the website of the civil organization TASZ on access to health care for Temporary Protection Status holders <https://tasz.hu/ukraine-healthcare-en>

### 3.1.3. Mental health and psychosocial support for children fleeing Ukraine

For the sake of the social integration of children fleeing from Ukraine, their catch-up in education and training is crucial as well as their psychosocial support and mental health care aimed at processing the traumas, they have experienced. There is also a tool which is currently available in 12 languages, including Ukrainian. (Detailed information about the project can be found on the website [www.eaad-best.hu](http://www.eaad-best.hu)).

Provisions related to mental health and psychosocial support are also provided at temporary care facilities, reception stations and reception points, which is mainly organized on a regional basis, consisting of outpatient specialist care (psychiatry, child psychiatry and addiction specialist clinics and caregivers) and inpatient care (acute, chronic and rehabilitative psychiatry and child psychiatry wards). Beneficiaries of temporary protection are also provided with free mental health assistance and care. It is also possible to request an interpreter at short notice on the telephone number 1812 when it comes to problems in communication between patients and doctors, so persons concerned may be provided with the services of an interpreter/sign language interpreter in medical examinations and treatment in designated institutions, where necessary, to overcome language barriers.

The following mental health support services/resources are also available for people under the personal scope of this report:

- The psychologists and psychiatrists of the Crisis Intervention Outpatient Clinic (Péterfy Hospital, Budapest) provide free crisis intervention therapy and psychiatric help to refugees, in Hungarian and English <https://peterfykh.hu/osztaly/pszichiatriai-osztaly-es-krizis-intervencio-43>
- <https://pszi.hu>
- <https://ongyilkossagmegelozes.hu/ambulans-es-fekvobeteg-pszichoterapias-helyek-listaja>
- <https://callforhelp.hu/pszichiatriak>
- [www.eaad.hu/help](http://www.eaad.hu/help)
- <https://mok.hu/hirek/mokhirek/egeszsegugyi-segitopontok-menekulteknek>

The following organisations provide assistance in Hungarian only:

- Hungarian First Aid Service: 116-123
  - National Crisis Centre: +36-80-20-55-20
  - Caritas Pastoral Care: +36-80-505-503
  - Transcarpathian Mental First Aid Service: 0956008005
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## 3.2. Access to education

### 3.2.1. Types of schooling

**Table 5 – Enrolment and attendance of children fleeing Ukraine**

Types of schooling		Number of children enrolled	Number of children attending	Source
National formal educational system	Children in nursery	1069	data not available	Ministry of Interior – requested by the UNHCR
	Children in primary education	3573	data not available	Ministry of Interior – requested by the UNHCR
	Children in secondary education	319	data not available	Ministry of Interior – requested by the UNHCR
Physical attendance of Ukrainian led school / educational setting		data available	data not available	
Online attendance of Ukrainian led school / educational setting		data available	data not available	

*Source:* Ministry of Interior, State Secretary for Public Education – information requested by the UNHCR, data as of 31 January 2023, received from the UNHCR via email on 4 July 2023.

In Hungary, attending kindergarten is mandatory for children over the age of 3, and the local government provides information on fulfilling this obligation. Children between the ages of 6 and 16 are subject to compulsory education in either state or private schools<sup>40</sup>. State schools can be attended free of charge. Private schools may require tuition fees. Information on available places and training can be obtained from the schools, school district centres, and vocational training centres.

<sup>40</sup> Act CXC of 2011 on National Public Education, <https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2011-190-00-00>

Article 45 paragraphs 2-3

Secondary school students can also apply for accommodation in dormitories, and information about available places is provided by school district centres and vocational training centres.

To facilitate education and language learning, the government has introduced additional individual sessions after school, five times a week, for the concerned students. Furthermore, schools, public education institutions, and vocational training centres that welcome people fleeing from Ukraine will receive extra monthly financial support of 130,000 HUF. The government is also offering the opportunity to sit the Hungarian final exam free of charge, enabling the students to obtain this important educational certification.<sup>41</sup>

It shall be highlighted that according to a report of Hungary published by the Asylum Information Database<sup>42</sup> (hereinafter: report) there are certain shortcomings in the temporary protection system, such as there is breach of EU law, since third-country nationals who had permanent residence in Ukraine are not eligible neither for temporary nor for any other adequate protection in Hungary. Those persons whose temporary protection application is unsuccessful cannot submit an asylum application. These legal circumstances are clearly in breach of EU law regulating the temporary protection scheme. The report further highlight that the protection is not immediate, because accessing the whole range of reception conditions, registration for temporary protection is not sufficient, the procedure for settling temporary protection status has to have been completed and it takes up to 2-3 months. The report notes that new border-control policy: Since the end of January 2023, third-country nationals without valid travel documents and those who were residing in Ukraine prior to 24 February 2022 and left Ukraine later but then returned, are not granted entry to Hungary. These people, even if eligible, cannot access temporary protection procedure in Hungary. People (including Ukrainians) with an entry ban issued by an EU Member State are also refused entry.

The report underlines that only a low number of temporary protection beneficiaries receives subsistence allowance (approx. 7,000), which is an extremely low number, given that the subsistence allowance is the only state-funded financial support available for displaced persons from Ukraine. According to the report the housing coordination is rather chaotic, since tasks and competencies have not been regulated by the usual legal instruments, but were rather coordinated in an ad hoc manner; accommodation was mainly provided by municipalities, churches, charities, NGOs and private entities. The report highlights that according to the contributor there are difficulties in accessing education, because Hungarian public education institutions were not prepared to receive Ukrainian children, therefore, neither Hungarian language courses are provided to them, hindering the children's integration into the education system, nor catch-up or tutoring classes are available for those bilingual, typically Roma children, who, although they speak Hungarian, are lagging behind their classmates.

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<sup>41</sup> Information received from the OCFRH via email on 12 June 2023.

<sup>42</sup> Asylum Information Database, Country report: Hungary 2022 [https://asylumineurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/AIDA-HU\\_2022-Update.pdf](https://asylumineurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/AIDA-HU_2022-Update.pdf)

P. 15.

The contribution had been made by the Hungarian Helsinki Committee (hereinafter: HHC)

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### 3.2.2. Support to integration in the formal educational system

In **Hungary**, the Ministry of Interior, State Secretary for Public Education highlighted that the main challenges are the different levels of knowledge and the lack of Hungarian language knowledge. To address the issue of lack of language knowledge, schools can provide five Hungarian classes per week. However, data is not available on the number of schools providing the language support program and how many children are benefitting from the support.<sup>43</sup>

### 3.2.3. Data on drop outs and NEETs (not in education, employment, or training)

No specific data had been provided by the stakeholders.

## 3.3. Access to social welfare – forms of social assistance related to children

According to the Hungarian Directorate-General for Social Affairs and Child Protection, the Children's Home has 36 places and welcomes children of all nationalities. It provides full residential care as defined in the Child Protection Act (accommodation, meals, clothing, access to health care and education, mental health support). It also provides interpretation and translation services.

According to the information provided by BKK (Centre for Budapest Transport), Ukrainian nationals (having Ukrainian official documents such as passports, ID cards, UA residence permits, foreign students studying in Ukraine - UA student card) may use the means of public transport in Budapest free of charge.<sup>44</sup>

Beneficiaries of temporary protection have access to so-called regular subsistence allowance under Gov. Decree 106/2022 (12 March) on amending Government Decree No. 301/2007 (XI. 9.) on certain rules relating to the employment and benefits of persons recognised as entitled to temporary protection during an emergency in a neighbouring country in view of a humanitarian disaster in a neighbouring country and on the implementation of Act LXXX of 2007

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<sup>43</sup> Information was received by the UNHCR via email on 4 July 2023.

<sup>44</sup><https://bkk.hu/hirek/2023/03/meghosszabbítottak-az-ingyenes-utazasi-lehetoseget-a-bkk-jaratain-az-ukrajnabol-erkezo-menekultek-szamara.9479/>

on the right of asylum<sup>45</sup>. This monthly allowance is granted to those beneficiaries of temporary protection who have registered as job seekers with the government office. According to the regulations in place, job seekers are offered employment after 45 days of requesting the allowance, which they are required to accept. In case the person becomes employed, or if they refuse to accept employment, they will no longer be entitled to the allowance. Irrespective of their employment status, the subsistence allowance is also granted to children (including those above 16 who are still in school) and mothers caring for children under three years old. Under the state of danger, several additional measures have been adopted in the form of government decrees to remove barriers to the social inclusion of refugees from Ukraine. Among these, there have been a number of amendments expanding the access of refugee children to social benefits, including the right to free meals. Beneficiaries of temporary protection, however, do not explicitly fall under the scope of sectoral legislation on social welfare and inclusion. This is due to the fact that beneficiaries of temporary protection are – in general terms – not included within the personal scope of relevant sectoral legislation, including those related to children, for instance the Social Act<sup>46</sup> and the Family Support Act.<sup>47</sup> Furthermore, not holding an address card (lakcímkártya) and a social security card (TAJ kártya), are practical obstacles for beneficiaries of temporary protection in accessing services/allowances in the social security system. This is because under Hungarian law<sup>48</sup>, permanent residence can only be established by a foreign national if they are recognised as a refugee, registered for subsidiary protection, or have an immigrant (bevándorolt) or permanent resident status (letelepedett) and are living in Hungary. This means that all other Ukrainian nationals who hold a different legal status (e.g. persons registered for temporary protection or tolerated status holders) are excluded from establishing a permanent residence in Hungary. Beneficiaries of temporary protection can only receive an address certificate from the NDGAP based on their records, which is not accepted (on par with the address card) by service providers.

**a. Financial allowances related to children available to temporary protection holders equally as to Hungarian nationals due to “emergency” legislation**

- maternity support (anyasági támogatás);
- free and discounted institutional child catering (ingyenes és kedvezményes intézményi gyermekétkeztetés).

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<sup>45</sup> Gov. Decree 106/2022 (12 March) on amending Government Decree No. 301/2007 (XI. 9.) on certain rules relating to the employment and benefits of persons recognised as entitled to temporary protection during an emergency in a neighbouring country in view of a humanitarian disaster in a neighbouring country and on the implementation of Act LXXX of 2007 on the right of asylum <https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2022-106-20-22>

Article 4, paragraph 2

<sup>46</sup> Act III of 1993 on social administration and social benefits (Social Act) <https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/1993-3-00-00>

<sup>47</sup> Act LXXXIV of 1998 on family support (Family Support Act) <https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/1998-84-00-00>

<sup>48</sup> Act LXVI of 1992 on the registration of personal data and addresses of citizens <https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/1992-66-00-00>

Article 4

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**b. Financial allowances related to children not available to temporary protection holders but available to Hungarian nationals (based on specific eligibility criteria)**

- family allowance (családi pótlék);
- child home care allowance (gyermekgondozást segítő ellátás);
- parental support (gyermeknevelési támogatás);
- child home care allowance (gyermek otthongondozási díj);
- regular child protection allowance (rendszeres gyermekvédelmi kedvezmény);
- additional financial support for beneficiaries of regular child protection allowance in August and November (pénzbeli ellátás).



## 4. Additional legal and practical barriers and challenges

### 4.1. General challenges

See 3.2.

In case of language barriers, an interpreter/sign language interpreter is can be provided - in designated institutions - during medical examinations and medical treatment. There is also a possible to call an interpreter on the telephone number 1812.

### 4.2. Challenges for children at multiple risk/disadvantage

Children with special needs and children with disabilities from Ukraine have access to the so-called pedagogical service in **Hungary**.<sup>49</sup> The pedagogical service consists of a group of experts, including psychologist, special educators, logopaedics who assess the child developmental stage and needs in a procedure upon request by the parents, and gives official expert opinion. In complex disability cases the child might be referred to special educational institution.

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<sup>49</sup> According to Article 3 of Gov. Decree 106/2022. (III. 12) on amending Government Decree No. 301/2007 (XI. 9.) on certain rules relating to the employment and benefits of persons recognised as entitled to temporary protection during an emergency in a neighbouring country in view of a humanitarian disaster in a neighbouring country and on the implementation of Act LXXX of 2007 on the right of asylum, children concerned are entitled to use the services of day-care centres, nursery care, education, care and the services of the "Sure Start Children's Home" under the same conditions as Hungarian citizens.

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## 5. Policies in place

Persons enjoying temporary protection benefit from regular subsistence allowance, including during their stay in the reception centre or another accommodation designated for them. The regular subsistence allowance shall be in the case of minors, equivalent to the amount of the family allowance as defined in a specific law, i.e. HUF 13,700.<sup>50</sup>

### 5.1. Dedicated action plan and/or integrated measures

Education can be mentioned as a form of integration which had been elaborated in the dedicated chapter.

### 5.2. European Child Guarantee

### 5.3. Budget

No budget had been allocated for displaced children from Ukraine specifically.

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<sup>50</sup> Article 37/A (4) b.) of Gov Decree 301/2007. (XI. 9.) on the implementation of the Law LXXX of 2007 on the right to asylum, Article 5 paragraph 1 point b of Gov. Decree 106/2022 (III. 12.) on amending Government Decree No. 301/2007 (XI. 9.) on certain rules relating to the employment and benefits of persons recognised as entitled to temporary protection during an emergency in a neighbouring country in view of a humanitarian disaster in a neighbouring country and on the implementation of Act LXXX of 2007 on the right of asylum.

## Annex 1 – Research and data

**Table 6 – Research on experiences of children fleeing Ukraine<sup>51</sup>**

Surveys or research studies on experiences of children fleeing Ukraine	
Name/title	The situation of Transcarpathian Romani families fleeing from Ukraine to Hungary
Main findings (max. 1000 chars)	The research portrays the situation of Roma families who arrived to Hungary due to the war, including on education (p. 37).
Highlight any findings re. gender, age, disability and diverse characteristics	161 interviews were conducted, out of which only 20 were conducted with men.
Methodology (for surveys/polls indicate sample size and sample method)	161 semi-structured interviews between 15 July – 15 September 2022 with Romani refugees (TP holders and dual nationals).
Source	<a href="https://romaversitas.hu/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Karpataljai_romak_HU_2021_FINAL_oldalparos.pdf">https://romaversitas.hu/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Karpataljai_romak_HU_2021_FINAL_oldalparos.pdf</a> (romaversitas.hu) English: Inclusion of Roma refugee children from Ukraine - Romaversitas <a href="#">Inclusion of Roma refugee children from Ukraine - Romaversitas</a>

**Table 7 – Research on experiences of children fleeing Ukraine<sup>52</sup>**

### Surveys or research studies on experiences of children fleeing Ukraine

<sup>51</sup> Romaversitas Foundation: The situation of Transcarpathian Romani families fleeing from Ukraine to Hungary, 2022

[https://romaversitas.hu/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Karpataljai\\_romak\\_HU\\_2021\\_FINAL\\_oldalparos.pdf](https://romaversitas.hu/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Karpataljai_romak_HU_2021_FINAL_oldalparos.pdf)

Information had been provided by UNHCR via email on 4 July 2023.

<sup>52</sup> Information had been provided by UNHCR via email on 4 July 2023.

Name/title	Hungary: Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment – _November 2022 (hereinafter: MSNA)
Main findings (max. 1000 chars)	16 % of the respondents reported protection and safety concerns for children in their current area of residence. They mostly indicated an increased risk of losing their accommodation (36%), increased vulnerability to physical violence (20%), worsened psychosocial condition (18%), risk of trafficking and neglect.
Highlight any findings re. gender, age, disability and diverse characteristics.	Details on the profiles of the respondents including Age, Gender, Diversity (AGD) considerations can be found on page 11 of the MSNA.
Methodology (for surveys/polls indicate sample size and sample method)	Details of the methodology can be found on page 8 of the MSNA. Limitation to the protection data: one-to-one survey and a household approach were not ideal to capture protection findings; furthermore, the survey targeted only adult respondents, so the findings lack a child’s perspective.
Source	Hungary: Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (November 2022) <a href="https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/97062">https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/97062</a>

## Annex 2 - Promising practices

**Table 8 – Promising practice # 1<sup>53</sup>**

Promising programme / practices aimed at providing protection and support to displaced children fleeing the war in Ukraine	
Name/title	Small Grant Program for refugee- and community-led organizations
Implementing body (public authority, CSO etc)	UNHCR, NGO: Next Step, Romaversitas
Funding body	UNHCR
Reference in EN and original language (incl. URL, where available)	Invitation to participate in Next Step’s Capacity Building and Small Grants Program –_Next Step (nextstep.eu.org) Inclusion of Roma children in Ukraine - Romaversitas Information on UNHCR RLO grant agreements
Start / end date or ongoing	during 2023
Main target group	UNHCR small grant program: all RLO's and CBOs Romaversitas: RLOs/CBOs who support the inclusion of Romani refugees Next Step: 2 RLOs who provide services for asylum seekers and/or refugees
Scope (local/regional/national)	Organizations are being supported in various parts of Hungary
Objectives and outputs	UNHCR is supporting directly and through partners community-led and refugee-led organizations, to support community-based protection.
Brief description (max. 1000 chars)	1.) UNHCR small grant: UNHCR is supporting 12 CBO's and RLO's across Hungary in a variety of different topics, such as Hungarian language learning, homework support and children summer camp activities. 2.) Romaversitas small grant project: As part of their agreement with UNHCR, Romaversitas gives out small grants to community-based organizations that deliver non-formal educational services to Romani refugee children and other children in the community, with a main selection criterion being how the Romani refugee

<sup>53</sup> Information had been provided by UNHCR via email on 4 July 2023.

	<p>community, incl. children, has been consulted in the projects' design phase.</p> <p>3.) <b>Next Step:</b> The NGO Next Step focuses in their “NGO Capacity Building and Small Grant Program” _on building the organizational capacity of RLOs and CBOs and after the training sessions, all participating organizations will submit a proposal and two organizations will be selected to receive small grants (4.000 USD per organization) to implement their project. Most participating organizations are working with children and educational activities.</p>
<p>Highlight key elements of the programme/practice which makes it promising (sustainability, measurable impact etc) (max. 500 chars)</p>	<p>Decision to launch non-formal education and other child programs builds on the voices of refugees themselves. For Romaversitas, it is based on a community research project that assessed Romani refugees' views on discrimination, problems and needs, led by young local Romani researchers graduate students. Research design was heavily influenced by Hungarian Roma community members' discussions with displaced children and their families.</p> <p>Working with refugee-led and community-based organizations constitutes a grassroots approach whereby people who have experienced forced displacement are directly provided with financial resources and support to implement innovative approaches, including with children and youth. Through encouraging networking between organizations and capacity building opportunities, they can further establish themselves, increasing sustainability chances.</p>
<p>Monitoring and evaluation and the bodies involved</p>	<p>UNHCR's monitoring cycle</p>

**Table 9 – Promising practice # 2<sup>54</sup>**

<p><b>Promising programme / practices aimed at providing protection and support to displaced children fleeing the war in Ukraine</b></p>	
Name/title	Wise Browsing, Safe Posting' project in Hungary
Implementing body (public authority, CSO etc)	UNHCR Hungary
Funding body	UNHCR

<sup>54</sup> Information had been provided by UNHCR via email on 4 July 2023.

Reference in EN and original language (incl. URL, where available)	Protect children from online threats <a href="https://help.unhcr.org/hungary/safe-online/">https://help.unhcr.org/hungary/safe-online/</a> Safe Online – A guide to be protected on the internet <a href="https://help.unhcr.org/hungary/safe-online/">https://help.unhcr.org/hungary/safe-online/</a>
Start / end date or ongoing	2022 and 2023
Main target group	children, adolescents, parents
Scope (local/regional/national)	national
Objectives and outputs	Implementing a community-based approach to safer social media use
Brief description (max. 1000 chars)	<p>In the context of the Ukrainian refugee crisis, a plethora of online initiatives, by local actors, civil society organizations individuals and others have become essential tools to facilitate the connection between refugees in need and offers for humanitarian support. While many of these well-meaning projects have demonstrated to be accessible and in high demand, there are limited features on safeguarding, mitigating digital risks, or having checks in place like vetting of offers.</p> <p>The misuse of these platforms by ill-intentioned individuals and criminal networks attempting to contact vulnerable Ukrainians online opens the door to risks of exploitation, human trafficking, child abuse and GBV -which may include experiencing sexual harassment, being sent abusive messages or sexually explicit content without consent-perpetrated online. Feedback from the refugee community – _adults and children – _was the need to boost capacity to self-protect when online. Workshops for children and youth, informational booklets and digital information online (see above link) were products developed in close consultation with communities, to address these identified risks.</p>
Highlight key elements of the programme/practice which makes it promising (sustainability, measurable impact etc) (max. 500 chars)	<p>The community campaign is being rolled out digitally and with the help of community-based networks in Hungary in 2023. Guidance for online community administrators how to identify and moderate harmful content is being developed as a next step to achieve a sustainable outcome in terms of informing and empowering the refugee community online.</p>

Monitoring and evaluation and the bodies involved	UNHCR; with refugee involvement (incl. children and youth) throughout the process
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