



SUPPORT OFFERED by NGOs TO THE REFUGEES OF THE UKRAINE WAR

IN HUNGARY

August 2022

[Cromo Foundation](#) has looked for resources to gather information regarding the support offered to the refugees of the Ukraine war in Hungary to add information to the [Crestart](#) Erasmus+ project aiming to build resilient communities, by building the capacity of local residents to become active culture shaping stakeholders and community organizers locally. It is worth noting though that this document does not reflect the whole picture.

Over 6 million *refugees* have fled *Ukraine*. According to UNHCR data on 17 Aug 2022, 6,657,918 refugees have left the country since the war began. More than half of them, 3,524,205 people were heading for the Polish border, with the Hungarian border the fourth most popular exit point after Romania and Russia. About 10 percent of refugees have taken this route so far. However, there is no reliable information on how many of them are still in Hungary, but the general experience of aid agencies suggests that the vast majority have continued their journey westward.

According to the Hungarian police headquarters ORFK, more than 10,000 people crossed the Ukrainian-Hungarian and Romanian-Hungarian borders every day, only a fraction of whom applied for a temporary residence permit.

There are numerous aid organizations in Hungary that mobilized right after the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. And there are hundreds or thousands of civilian Hungarians who immediately wanted to offer their help. However, it is often difficult to combine good intentions and usefulness.

Some concrete examples:

[Migration Aid](#) is looking for volunteers to go to the Ukrainian border to distribute water, food and possibly clothing. They are also looking for property owners in Sabolcs-Satmar who can offer dry space to store the donation. They also need translators who speak Russian or Ukrainian well, and anyone from the country who can help with online organisation and administration. They are also looking for minibuses with drivers who can transport refugees from the border, and they accept fuel cards to cover the cost of petrol.

Budapest "[Bike Mafia](#)" is [cooperating](#) with the organization [Age of Hope](#) to set up a "soup kitchen" on the Ukrainian border, where they will be able to cook, prepare sandwiches and tea for those in need, who will also receive foil and sleeping bags to protect them from the cold. As they write, the following are needed (no clothes, please): packaged ready-made sandwiches, hot food in cans, juices, insulating foils, blankets, sleeping bags, thermos flasks, baby care items, wet wipes, and cleaning products.



Help Victims of the Ukrainian War!

Hungarian Government: E-mail: karpataljaert@me.gov.hu	Hungarian Reformed Church Aid: E-mail: karpataljaert@jobbadni.hu Tel: +36 (80) 296 844 Donation hotline: 1358
Caritas Hungary: E-mail: karpataljaert@caritas.org.hu Tel: +36 (1) 372 0910 Donation hotline: 1356	Hungarian Baptist Aid: E-mail: karpataljaert@baptistasegely.hu Tel: +36 (70) 886 2292 Donation hotline: 1355
Hungarian Maltese Charity Service: E-mail: karpataljaert@maltai.hu Tel: +36 (70) 653 1324 Donation hotline: 1350	Hungarian Red Cross: E-mail: karpataljaert@voroskereszt.hu Tel: +36 (1) 374 1374 Donation hotline: 1359
Hungarian Ecumenical Relief Organization: E-mail: karpataljaert@segelyszervezet.hu Tel: +36 (70) 664 8645 Donation hotline: 1353	

Thank you for your help!

*Donation hotline accessible only from Hungary!

Plenty of donation hotlines and fundraising campaigns were launched. Groups have also been set up on Facebook, such as the group called [Help \(Ukraine\) Допомора українцям](#), which collects aid from all over the country (obviously, it's worth being careful not to donate to scammers). The [Hungarian-Ukrainian border situation group](#) is also in the process of being set up, and here, in addition to the current crossing possibilities, there is also a

willingness to help. The [Ukraine news](#) group is also worth following for all these purposes.

One of our umbrella organisation, the [Civilization coalition](#) in Hungary – aiming to enable more and more civil society organisations to support one another and work for a livable Hungary – has collected these activities in the hope that they will serve as a resource for - both those who would like to donate or get involved in relief work themselves, and those who want to better understand the situation and its implications.

„The outbreak of war in Ukraine has shocked us all. We stand in solidarity with Ukraine and with all the people who have been dragged into war against their will. When the fighting started, our member organisations - along with many others - began to provide immediate assistance, and as the first refugees arrived, CSOs, informal aid groups and enthusiastic volunteers were already lining up to organise humanitarian work.

Since then, our member organisations have continued to provide accommodation and meals, administrative assistance, interpretation, counselling, pastoral care and much more, collect donations, provide updates to those who need help, monitor war crimes, and assess the political, economic and social consequences of the crisis.

In the following article, we have collected these activities in the hope that they will serve as a resource for our readers - both those who would like to donate or get involved in relief work themselves, and those who want to better understand the situation and its implications.

Information and links from our member organisations

How can you help?

- Useful links for helpers/donors from all over the country: [here](#) you can find the Foundation for Democratic Youth's and [here](#) the NIOK's list.
- If you want to help [in or around Pécs](#), the With the Power of Humanity will help you find your way around.
- [In and around Debrecen](#), the Association of Alternative Communities is waiting for helpers/donors.



- [Offering accommodation in and around Budapest](#) with the help of From Streets to Homes Association.

[Help for everyday life](#): filtering fake news, keeping the mental health, how to talk to children about war - a collection from the Foundation for Democratic Youth.

[Legal information for refugees](#) in 4 languages in the Hungarian Helsinki Committee's constantly updated materials.

[Telephone and email support for refugees](#), organised by the Menedék - Hungarian Association for Migrants.

[Telephone helpline with LGBTQI assistance](#) at the Háttér Society, they also help anyone who contacts them to find their way.

Activities of our member organisations in relation to the war and refugee crisis

Housing and care of refugees

- Several of our members are directly involved in the housing and care of refugees, including the [Association of Alternative Communities in Debrecen](#), the [Civil College Foundation](#) and the [From Streets to Homes Association](#). The With the Power of Humanity Association in Pécs organises childcare, recreational and art therapy sessions with the help of local civilians and volunteers. They all welcome volunteers, helpers and donors!

Amnesty International Hungary [monitors war crimes](#).

Helping aid workers

- [Mental health support for volunteers and professionals assisting Ukrainian refugees](#) is organised by the Artemisszió Foundation.
- The NIOK Foundation supports [fundraising for CSOs helping in the war in Ukraine with discounted campaign launch opportunities](#).
- PILnet provides [pro bono legal assistance to refugee support organisations](#), whether they need operational or legal capacity building.
- The Ökotárs Foundation provides targeted support to its partners in Eastern Hungary who are working to alleviate the refugee crisis in the border region.

Greenpeace Hungary organized a peace demonstration, together with the civilians, volunteers and demonstrators they [formed a peace sign of torches in Heroes' Square](#).

ARC and Nyomtassteis has announced an [art contest](#).

Analysis from our member organisations

Energy supply





- [The problem of Russian gas imports](#) and possible responses from Clean Air Action Group.
- [The security risks of nuclear power](#) and the benefits of a decentralised energy system in a war - a quick analysis by the Energiaklub.

Political analyses

- [Hungary's political manoeuvres](#) between East and West - László Majtényi, Eötvös Károly Institute.
- [A wide range of reports and rapid analyses](#) from Political Capital on the Ukrainian crisis: disinformation war, V4 cooperation during the conflict, security risks of Russian investments in Hungary.
- [Rapid analyses on the domestic political-economic consequences of the war in Ukraine](#) from Transparency International: Paks 2, Sberbank and the Russian spy bank.¹

The Facebook page of *Heti betevő* has [compiled](#) a guide on how to donate and help. This is almost similar for all crisis situations. The main points are as follows:

- First of all, **you should check with aid organizations** about what exactly is needed on the ground: For example, if one asks for clothes somewhere, give them exactly what they need! If they need a winter coat, summer clothes are not a help, but a nuisance that aid organizations have to deal with.
- Do not give toys, books, clothes, only in case people specifically ask for them.
- When it comes to food, make sure you send non-perishable foods but those that can be consumed without further ado, such as canned goods, chocolate, and energy bars. Dry pasta and oil do not spoil, but they are useless without a kitchen.
- Wash all textiles (coats, blankets, pillows) before you give them away.
- Always listen to aid organizations that have experience in coordinating donations. It is important that aid in crisis situations is organized so that it reaches where it is needed most.
- +1. PRINCIPAL AND perhaps MOST IMPORTANT: Only give things that you would eat/wear/use.
- These people lived just like you and I did a few days ago.²

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency created a website for refugees, asylum-seekers, and stateless persons per country. In Hungary: <https://help.unhcr.org/hungary/>

They also provide [statistics](#) compiled mainly from data provided by authorities Data is updated weekly:

¹ https://civilizacio.net/en/news-blog/csos-and-the-war-in-ukraine?fbclid=IwAR08SKnV_Jslw3r6_Biqhw5nEvvNao89HLO-64DcWofVyqEX6Tfo73jUQps

² <https://www.facebook.com/hetibetevo/posts/3239026452984248>