

Invitation for Expression of Interest by

Refugee-Led Organizations (RLOs), Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)

Invitation for Expression of Interest

The purpose of the Invitation for Expression of Interest is to encourage Refugee-Led Organizations (RLOs) and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) to seek support in strengthening their capacity to respond to social inclusion needs of refugees or other forcibly displaced communities residing in Hungary by establishing a small-scale partnership with UNHCR and implementing a Grant Agreement (GA).

We welcome organizations that focus on persons with temporary protection status as well as refugees or stateless individuals from countries other than Ukraine.

UNHCR specifically welcomes proposals relating to the 4 listed areas which would be reviewed for potential funding with priority:

1. **Educational inclusion initiatives aimed to support the school integration of refugee children** prioritizing adolescences and supporting the transition between educational levels.
2. **Facilitation of refugees' access to safe, legal and decent employment**, including by addressing language barriers, or providing ancillary services such as day care or transport support etc.
3. **Support accessing long-term accommodation or housing**, including by providing counselling and/or accompaniment in this regard, however excluding cash assistance for housing.
4. **Support initiatives focused on prevention of gender-based violence.**

IMPORTANT NOTE: activities related to cash assistance, procurement, and distribution of food and/or medicine, cross-border activities, transportation for relocation purposes will not be covered by the present Invitation for Expression of Interest.

Background information

Over 38,000 Ukrainian nationals have Temporary Protection status in Hungary currently until March 2025. Others who have fled Ukraine via Hungary have moved onward or are staying in Hungary on other legal grounds, mostly with work permits issued after February 2022. There are also asylum-seekers and refugees from other nationalities in Hungary, as well as persons in refugee-like situations, and stateless individuals.

Charitable and non-governmental organizations, community-based and refugee-led initiatives, have been actively engaged in supporting the government-led efforts in addressing the protection and assistance requirements of refugees from Ukraine in Hungary. As

displacement continues, most notably from Ukraine, leveraging on the knowledge, skills and resources of organizations led by refugees are pivotal to improve inclusion and self-reliance – including for the most affected in the communities.

This call focuses on expanding the capacities of organizations running activities in one of the following 4 key areas:

1. **Educational inclusion fosters social cohesion**, empowers refugee youth to build their futures, and contributes to the overall resilience and well-being of both individuals and communities affected by displacement. Adolescence is a critical period when educational experiences can significantly impact future opportunities and it is also a sensitive period for youth from a mental health point of view too. Refugee youth are at high risk of early school leaving especially when transition from one school level to the next shall happen, providing tailored support can help to ensure continuity in learning and successful completion of schooling.

2. **Facilitating refugees' access to safe, legal, and decent employment** is crucial for their successful integration and self-sufficiency. By addressing language barriers and providing ancillary services such as transport support, skills development, assistance in job seeking, refugees can overcome obstacles to employment and contribute meaningfully to their host communities. Access to employment not only ensures economic stability and independence for refugees but also fosters social inclusion, promotes dignity, and reduces reliance on social assistance programs. Ultimately, facilitating employment opportunities empowers refugees to rebuild their lives with dignity and contributes positively to the economic and social fabric of their new societies.

3. Most refugees in Hungary reside in host community private accommodation, and hence, stronger community-based protection is required to strengthen social cohesion, and to facilitate inclusion, access to essential services and support for the most vulnerable groups. **Support access to long-term accommodation or housing, for example through counseling and accompaniment.** This is essential for forcibly displaced to establish stable and sustainable living in their host country. Access to secure housing ensures a sense of safety and stability, laying the foundation for successful integration and participation in society. Counseling and accompaniment services offer invaluable emotional and practical support, helping forcibly displaced in facing housing challenges and build essential life skills. By addressing needs in identifying proper housing solutions and providing holistic support, refugees can overcome barriers to stability, promote well-being, and ultimately thrive in their new communities.

4. In any conflict affected situation, women and girls can be especially vulnerable, and potential of violence increases. There is a need to support the **prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) alongside promoting gender empowerment.** Projects from organizations with expertise and knowledge in GBV focusing on women's and girls' rights, for example sexual and reproductive health rights, are encouraged.

UNHCR promotes an Age, Gender, and Diversity policy, as such organizations led by refugees, women, youth, persons with disabilities, members of the Roma community, and other diverse groups are strongly encouraged to apply.

Definition of RLOs & CBOs

Qualification as Community-based Organization (CBO): An organization that follows an inclusive partnership strategy that recognizes and builds on the capacities and resources of forcibly displaced and stateless persons, by establishing trust, promoting meaningful participation, consultation and leadership. It is typically a non-profit, grass-root organization whose activities are based primarily on volunteer efforts. Members of CBOs can be Hungarian nationals, or other nationals who have resided in Hungary since many years under different types of residence permits. CBOs should be registered in Hungary.

Qualification as Refugee-led Organization (RLO): A Refugee-led Organization (RLO) is an organization in which persons with direct lived experience of forced displacement play a primary leadership role and whose stated objectives and activities are focused on responding to the needs of refugees and/or related communities. It is either entirely established and led by forcibly displaced persons/ refugees or predominantly have them in positions of leadership and decision making. The organization primarily provides advocacy, protection and assistance for communities affected by displacement. RLOs are officially registered in Hungary.

Both types of organizations are eligible to apply, however priority will be given to proposals coming from Refugee-Led organizations.

Project title and Identification	Project Location(s)
Strengthening the capacity of RLOs & CBOs	Hungary

Project Period: Estimated start and end dates of project

This invitation for expression of interest covers activities to be implemented during 2024, minimum duration of the project 3 months and project must end by 31 December 2024 at the latest. Proposals with sustainability perspective and activities can have a longer-term impact beyond the project duration, will be prioritized.

Deadline for application: 31 March 2024

Selection and contracting: April 2024

Start of the project: May-June 2024

Submission of Project Proposals

The small grant represents a maximum of HUF 2,800,000 per grant/project. The exact amount of the grant will be agreed between UNHCR and the selected organizations, depending on the exchange rate and other operational factors. The basis of partnership will be a Grant Agreement that entails a description of the activities envisaged during the grant period, a commitment to use funds solely for the purpose of RLO/CBO-related activities and capacity building, as well as financial and performance reporting requirements.

A Project Proposal (within a total amount of max. HUF 2,800,000) can be submitted for one or more activities. **Project Proposals should be submitted by 31 March 2024** through the following email address: hunbucontact@unhcr.org with the following subject matter: "Expression of Interest HU-2024 – [name of the organization]". For example, if the name of

**UNHCR**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

your organization is “Helping Hand Refugees”, the subject matter will be Expression of Interest HU-2024 – Helping Hand Refugees.

UNHCR reserves the right to accept a proposal in whole or in part. Conclusion of a Grant Agreement with UNHCR is subject to a selection process and availability of funds. The selection of a partner through this Invitation does not constitute an obligation for UNHCR to conclude a Grant Agreement with the selected partner.

Eligibility will be determined based on the review of the submissions of applicant organizations, including their respective governing documents and any other pertinent documentation demonstrating that they meet the selection criteria, described further below.

As a minimum requirement, organizations should submit:

Project proposal (using the attached template)

Proof of legal registration in Hungary (for example court registry document (birosagi cegjegyzek kivonat), certificate of foundation (alapito okirat), etc.)

Proof of bank account (for example bank statement, bank certificate)

Organizations may also wish to include other documents in their application to show how they meet the selection criteria, described further below.

Language requirements

The Project Proposal template (attached) should be filled in English.

Exceptionally, Project Proposals in Ukrainian/Hungarian languages may be accepted. Please contact hunbucontact@unhcr.org if your organization has difficulties in filling the Project Proposal template in English.

Other mandatory documents (proof of legal registration in Hungary and proof of bank account) can be submitted in the original language, there is no need for an official translation.

Timeframe & deadlines (date open, date closed)	Date Results to be Communicated to Applicants:
Date Open: 7 March 2024 Date Closed: 31 March 2024 Queries will be accepted via e-mail to hunbucontact@unhcr.org For the submission of your application, please send it to the following email address: hunbucontact@unhcr.org	UNHCR will contact the selected applicant to initiate the partnership, as per the operational priorities, following a review of the applications and decision by the Office. All applicant organizations will receive a reply to their applications.

Main Selection Criteria

The eligibility check list includes the following main selection criteria and applicants are encouraged to submit any evidence vis-à-vis meeting these criteria.

References / Experience working with UNHCR or its partners, and/or evidence of previously implemented initiatives.
Organizational Sustainability: Number of years the organization existed
Governance structure: Documented evidence of an internal governing structure and diverse representation in planning and decision-making (if available)
Operational Effectiveness: Documented evidence of beneficiaries from its operations/projects and feedback from previous beneficiaries
Inclusion and Diversity: Equitable access by all members of a community, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or social group to information, resources, and decision-making opportunities in the organization
Legal Status: Determination of the legal status of the organization and the appropriate contracting party: If the organization is neither registered in Hungary where it intends to perform activities nor in any other way legally authorized to operate in Hungary and conclude contracts in its own name, UNHCR cannot sign an agreement with the organization.
Financial Management: If the organization does not have a bank account in its legally registered name, then UNHCR cannot provide a grant to this organization.
Other Safeguards: The organization should confirm that they are accountable for that its individual members to commit to the Code of Conduct, undertake mandatory training on fraud and on prevention and response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (https://www.unhcr.org/protection/operations/405ac6614/secretary-generals-bulletin-special-measures-protection-sexual-exploitation.html) and report misconduct and that UNHCR may conduct periodic monitoring.

Issuing UNHCR Office

UNHCR Representation for Central Europe in Hungary

Contact Address

Felvinci ut 27, 1022 Budapest

Senior Operations Coordinator

Ms. Muriel Tschopp

Name of UNHCR Office

UNHCR Representation for Central Europe in Hungary

Date

7 March 2024

