



UPH ©

**1025**

Ukrainian refugee children and adults received our services in 2023

**568**

children were empowered through our activities in the Resilience Innovation Facility in 2023

**271**

Ukrainian refugees received mental health and psychosocial support services in 2023

## Context

Hungary has a relatively high child poverty rate compared to other EU countries. Economic disparities and social exclusion are especially problematic for Roma children, children with disabilities, and children in alternative care.

Recent demonstrations by teachers and students point to the fact that the education sector is underfunded with a lack of qualified teachers.

Due to recently adopted laws, NGOs find it increasingly difficult to bring educational or awareness raising programmes into schools, including on sexual education, drug prevention, and mental health.

Finally, anti-immigration laws and regulations prevent unaccompanied children from seeking protection in Hungary. During the war on Ukraine, Hungary has been making no vulnerability assessment of the children arriving in the territory, so no information is available about possible unaccompanied children.

## General overview

Terre des hommes (Tdh) opened its Regional Hub in Budapest in 2006, with a double function: to provide expertise and advice for Tdh operations in Europe and to develop regional projects. The two main programmes in the region are *Children and young people on the move* and *Access to justice for children and young people*.

In 2023, the Regional Hub continued its support for Ukrainian refugee families in Hungary through its emergency response programme until September, followed by a new project aimed at enhancing the integration and well-being of refugees. A total of 1619 children and parents received psychosocial support, catch-up education, leisure programmes, and individual assistance in 2022 and 2023.

Across Europe, regional projects implemented in collaboration with a wide range of partners focus on improved services for children in contact with the law and ensuring the rights of children on the move by promoting their development in education and (re)integration. Our child protection expertise – being a cross-cutting theme – focuses on empowering children and ensuring their participation and on developing safer environments for them through improving the child safeguarding systems of various institutions, including non-governmental organisations, sports clubs, and summer camps.

## Our thematic priorities and intervention map



Access to justice for children and young people



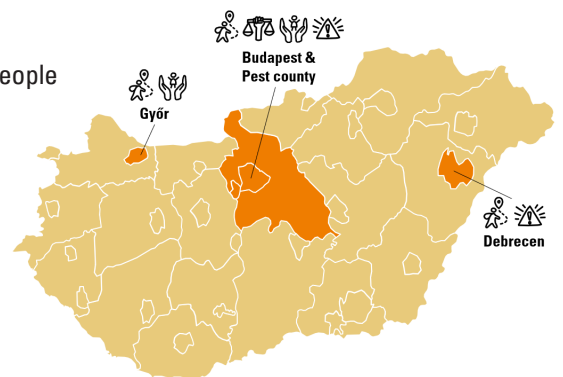
Children and young people on the move



Child protection



Humanitarian aid



Debrecen

## Our impact in 2023

### Access to justice for children and young people

Our regional project iAccess MyRights, launched in January 2023, aims to provide child-friendly information to children in the justice system by using AI technology. We created a ChatBot where children can ask questions and better understand the justice process, learn about their rights, take action, and anticipate outcomes. The project also explores the risks and benefits of introducing AI and other digital solutions in the child justice system.

The iRestore 2.0. project aims to make restorative justice accessible to all children. We enhance the capacity of child justice stakeholders to use restorative methods in their work while ensuring respect for children's rights.

The LINK project explores the barriers for children with disabilities to access justice and meaningfully participate in criminal proceedings.

### Children and young people on the move & Humanitarian aid

To support Ukrainian refugee families in Hungary, we launched an Emergency Response programme in 2022, continuing until September 2023. The programme included field work, capacity building (trainings, materials, webinars), and advocacy. Through our Resilience Innovation Facilities in Győr and Budapest, we empowered over 568 children and youth, boosting their self-confidence, social inclusion, and connectedness. We reached 1374 refugees across seven locations (Budapest, Debrecen, Pilisszántó, Győr), provided 2679 mental health consultations, and had 342 children participating in our six-week summer camp series.

Building upon the lessons learnt from the Emergency Response programme, we launched the Building Bridges project in November 2023. This 18-month initiative aims to enhance the integration and well-being of Ukrainian refugee children and youth under 25 and their families in Hungary and in Romania.

### Child protection

We continue to support UEFA in its efforts to ensure protection of children and youth in football across Europe. Through thematic resources, trainings, e-learning courses and webinars, as well as coaching and mentoring, we help UEFA member associations to develop and implement child and youth protection policies at national level. Since its launch in April 2020 until May 2024, the jointly-created platform [uefa-safeguarding.eu](https://uefa-safeguarding.eu) had more than 95,000 visitors, 25,389 registered users, and 20,548 people who completed at least one of the five e-course available in 13 languages.

The Safeguarding Resource and Support Hub (RSH) programme helps organisations in improving safeguarding against sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment. In 2023, the [safeguardingsupporthub.org](https://safeguardingsupporthub.org) platform had around 200,000 visitors and 3,341 learners completed at least one e-module of the RSH Safeguarding Matters e-learning course, with 90% finding it highly relevant. In 2023, the project hosted 55 training sessions, 2 roundtables, 4 workshops and networking events, and 18 National Expert Board meetings. Since its launch, RSH produced 340 resources, downloaded approximately 185,000 times.

The Child Protection Hub, created in 2015, remains a key platform and network for child protection professionals and organisations in Europe and beyond. More than 850,000 people are accessing the [childhub.org](https://childhub.org) platform yearly, where 31 e-learning courses and 3230 publications are freely available in 8 languages.

## Outlook

Tdh aims to grow partnerships, explore opportunities, and fundraise for the Resilience Innovation Facilities in Győr and Budapest, continuing mental health and psychosocial support for Ukrainian children with trained volunteers through methodologies like Movement, Games, Sports and Creativity (MGSC), ReachNow, and Problem Management Plus (PM+).

## Main partners and donors

**Partners:** Defence for Children International – Belgium, Social Activities and Practices Institute (Bulgaria), Brave Phone (Croatia), Validity Foundation (Hungary), Center for Youth Integration (Serbia), Council of Baltic Sea States (Sweden), Social Development Direct (UK), KU Leuven (Belgium), SOS Villaggi dei Bambini (Italy), Save the Children (Sweden)

**Donors:** European Union, UNICEF, UEFA, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC), Foreign, Commonwealth and Development office (FCDO), State Secretariat for Migration Switzerland



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As the leading Swiss child rights organisation, created in 1960, Terre des hommes stands together with children to uphold their rights, protect their lives and improve their well-being. In 2023, we supported over 5.2 million children and members of their communities in more than 30 countries.



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Helping children worldwide.