



SHORT EVALUATION OF THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE
FUND FOR UKRAINIANS PROGRAM

CARPATHIAN FOUNDATION – HUNGARY
2024



CARPATHIAN FOUNDATION – HUNGARY

EVALUATION OF THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND FOR UKRAINIANS PROGRAM

FOUNDING A FUND

The mission of the [Carpathian Foundation](#) is to improve the quality of life of people living in the Carpathian region, to preserve the social, ethnic, cultural and environmental values of the region and to promote its sustainable development. The Foundation encourages cooperation between non-profit, public and for-profit organisations, cross-border and inter-ethnic relations. It aims to promote social awareness, empowerment and cohesion, and to strengthen regional values and identity. The Foundation also carries out grant-making and programming activities, donating a total of USD 16 million to hundreds of NGOs and local authorities in the Carpathian region, covering the border regions of five countries, since its establishment in 1995.

Since the first day of the war in Ukraine, the Eger-based foundation has been committed to helping those who have suffered from the aggression of war. It provides a wide range of tools to support the well-being and social integration of refugees from Ukraine in Hungary, and takes significant steps to provide humanitarian support to the mainly civilian actors fighting on the front line across the Ukrainian border. Experience so far has shown that there is a strong need for fast and effective intervention, as a single call for proposals can often make a considerable difference. Thanks to the staff's preparatory work, a situation assessment and resource mobilisation was carried out in February 2022, the week before the programme was launched. The Carpathian Foundation set up the [Emergency Fund](#) at the second week of the war to finance civil initiatives to address the war-related humanitarian and refugee crisis in Ukraine, at the end of March the first call for proposals was published.

To provide the financial background, the Foundation contacted donor organisations, private individuals and local entrepreneurs, with the help of national and foreign contacts. The main donors of the Emergency Fund for Ukraine are numerous individuals, to whom we would like to express our gratitude: Carpathian Foundation - Ukraine, Karpatska Nadacia, SME Workshop, Békatutaj, Fondation de France, Fred C Robey Trust, Global Leadership, Hungarian American Coalition, MitOst, Palóc Networking Association, Plan31, Porticus, TZMO SA, Network of European Foundations Civitates Fund - Ecompanion Foundation, International Visegrad Fund, King Baudouin Foundation.

The Foundation's Board of Directors gave preference to applications that were process-oriented (as opposed to ad hoc) and built on previous relevant experience during the evaluation process. In the selection procedure, priority was given to proposals that provided programmes for Roma and refugee children. As the state care system was not able to respond adequately to the situation, priority was also given to infrastructure and capacity building of NGOs involved in the refugee crisis.

Under a simplified application system, support was available from February 2022 to April 2023 for NGOs to achieve the well-being of the people concerned through their activities, programmes, events, campaigns or processes.

Organisations were eligible to apply for the [call for proposals](#) which had been operating as a registered NGO for at least one year (in 2021) and were active in the Northern Hungary and/or Northern Great Plain regions. An important criterion was previous relevant experience with

vulnerable/roma communities, in the field of social, cultural and educational programme organisation and implementation. There was no minimum limit for the amount of funding, the maximum was HUF 500.000.-/project for the organisation of programmes, events, actions, processes; HUF 1.000.000.-/project for the development of civil infrastructure or human resources, including coordination and cooperation.

From the date of the Fund's start until 30 June 2023, the Supporter set a total of 22 application deadlines, during that period 33 applications were received. The Carpathian Foundation's Board of Directors assessed the complete applications received on a bi-weekly 10-day basis. After the signature of the contract, the Foundation paid 50-100% of the grant in advance to the beneficiaries.

The following brief analysis is intended to provide a detailed overview of the Emergency Response Fund for Ukrainians Program over the period 2022-2023.

HISTORY OF EMERGENCY FUND NOT ONLY IN NUMBERS

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) website, updated weekly, as of 5 May 2023, there are nearly 8 million 183 thousand refugees from Ukraine across Europe, out of whom 5 million 065 thousand are registered for temporary protection (or similar European national protection schemes) ¹

Nearly 1.8 million Ukrainian refugees have been registered at Hungarian border crossing points up to November 2022, of whom just over 32,000 have applied for temporary protection because they wish to stay in Hungary for a shorter or longer period². The Carpathian Foundation, through its supported organisations, reached approximately 1,000 people directly, and another 500 people benefited indirectly from the services and care provided by the implementers.

The supported projects are integrated into a larger context, and we want to provide a fresh research result³, completely independent of our own, to confirm the professionalism of our programme. The study classifies refugees into four different residence categories, to which four different needs structures can be assigned. These findings can be applied in concrete terms to the design of differentiated, effective and 'cost-efficient' assistance and support programmes.

The Carpathian Foundation has encountered many situations and problems in the implementation of the financed projects. As a donor and granting organisation, it is also important for us to know the motivations and needs of the refugees/families arriving in Hungary. The residence prognosis is a predictor of needs. The ability to respond quickly to these needs is an indicator of the effectiveness and professionalism of the NGOs supported by the Foundation. Among these, the most important for us were the needs and requirements of the target groups staying in Hungary, both *permanently* and *indefinitely*, to which we wanted to respond effectively. Based on the analysis and our own

¹ [SituationUkraineRefugeeSituation \(unhcr.org\)](https://www.unhcr.org/situations/ukraine/), download: 2023.05.05.

² Mária Anna Bartal, Volunteer Review Vol. 2. No.4. pp. 30.

³ The results of the medium-term needs assessment among the Ukrainian refugees supported by the Hungarian Ecumenical Aid Organisation; Volunteer Review Vol. 2 No. 4 (2022) in.: pp. 27-56;
[Önkéntes szemle 2. évf. 4. sz. \(2022.\)](#)

experience, the *medium-term needs* of the target group are best met through a *mixed support programme*: needs were in kind and material (food, toiletries and clothing, housing and asylum management), but also services (interpretation, medication support, language courses), which are most easily monetised through vouchers or donations. The supported projects were also structured around these objectives.

In the reporting period, 33 applications were received for the call for proposals, with a funding request of HUF 46,041,383. From these, 20 were funded, 8 rejected, 1 awaiting completion, 1 proposed for further development, 1 withdrawn and 2 withdrawn by the contractor, which represents a success rate of 60.6%.

In the first year of the programme, 2022, 12 of the 21 applications were successful, and in 2023, 8 of the 12 applications has been granted.

Status of applications submitted	Piece	%
Withdrawn by the contractor	2	6,06
Rejected	8	24,24
Awaiting completion	1	3,03
Granted	20	60,60
Proposed for further development	1	3,03
Withdrawn	1	3,03
Total	33	100

As a result of the funding experience and the visible results of the first semester, our organisation has set up a sub-fund with the support of the Civitates Fund of the Network of European Foundations, in collaboration with the Eco Companion Foundation. This has allowed us to support specific NGO initiatives to address the crisis of the war in Ukraine and the refugee crisis. In this way, the Carpathian Foundation's Emergency Fund became part of the "Promoting integration of Roma refugees in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg and Hajdú-Bihar counties" [sub-fund](#), which provided targeted support for active civic helpers up to HUF 4 million per project. The sub-programme aimed to support the work on the war more effectively, through a call for proposals system, more focused tasks and higher grant amounts.

Support was given to civil initiatives to help refugees from Ukraine in the North-Eastern Hungary region. Their main objective was to support vulnerable refugees of Roma origin, families and children in Hungary. A complex approach was supported for project designs which could provide assistance in the social, educational, health and cultural fields, based on the needs and circumstances of the people targeted. This supported the housing, access to public social, health and educational services, labour market integration of refugee families, children and adults of Roma origin in Hungary, as well as providing assistance and/or professional assistance in the formal administration of these services.

In this sub-programme, two organisations received a total of HUF 10.898.000.- in two rounds. A total of 7 applications were received for this call, of which 4 were funded, to be implemented by two organisations.

By allocating the funds, the Carpathian Foundation has made a significant contribution to the capacity building of the beneficiary organisations, improving their administrative, management,

fundraising and communication tasks and their overall functioning. The grantees were all organisations that had not been previously involved in refugee care, which made their support and strengthening even more relevant. The partnerships they built and implemented with other NGOs, institutions and governmental bodies during the projects were of key importance in their long-term and collaborative work in responding to local needs.

The sub-programme's measurable results are not highlighted separately, but are included in the overall report which can reach under.

Status of applications submitted	Received amount (HUF)	Received amount (%)
Withdrawn by the contractor	1 481 856	3,22
Rejected	9 971 000	21,66
Awaiting completion	1 085 000	2,36
Granted	31 003 527	67,33
Proposed for further development	1 000 000	2,17
Withdrawn	1 500 000	3,26
Total	46 041 383	100

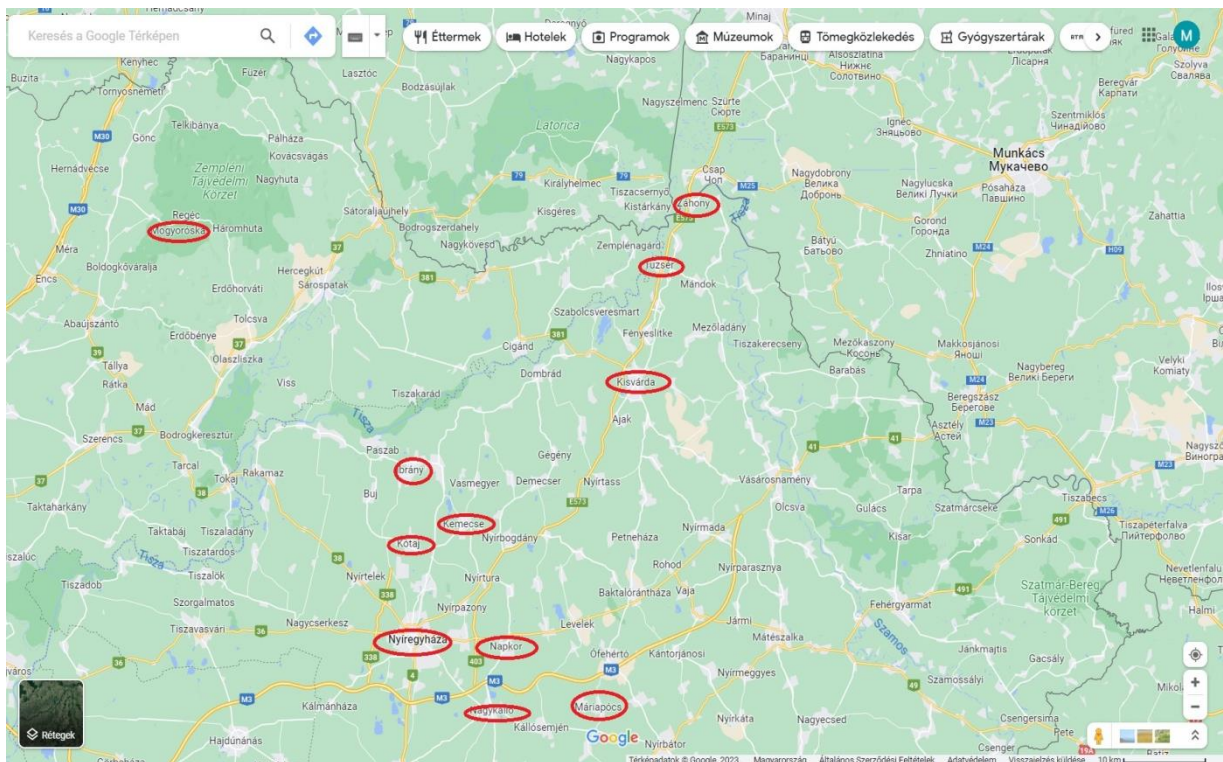
The total amount of the 33 applications submitted was HUF 46,041,383, of which the 20 successful applicants received HUF 31,003,527, which is 67.33% of the total amount. In the first year of the grant program (2022) provided HUF 17,919,027 and in the second year HUF 13,084,500 by the Foundation.

Supported organisations: National Association of Roma Women of the XXI. st Century (5 project), Somnakuno Drom Roma Women's Civil Association (4 project), Hidden Treasures Down Association (2 project), Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Association (2 project), „Medical Help Where Needed” Foundation, Hang out with Mum Association, Little Bear Baby-Mum Public Benefit Association, GREEN CICLE, Dorkász Service Public Benefit Foundation, Pantó Antal Preserve Association, Operators Association.

The average implementation time of the applications submitted was 3.03 months, while the average time for the winning projects was 2.72 months. The shortest project lasted 1 month and the longest 4 months.

Not all applications quantified the number of direct target beneficiaries, but the available data suggests that at least 1,000 people (families, children) have gained some form of assistance as a direct result of the projects supported and further 500 people have benefited indirectly from the services provided.

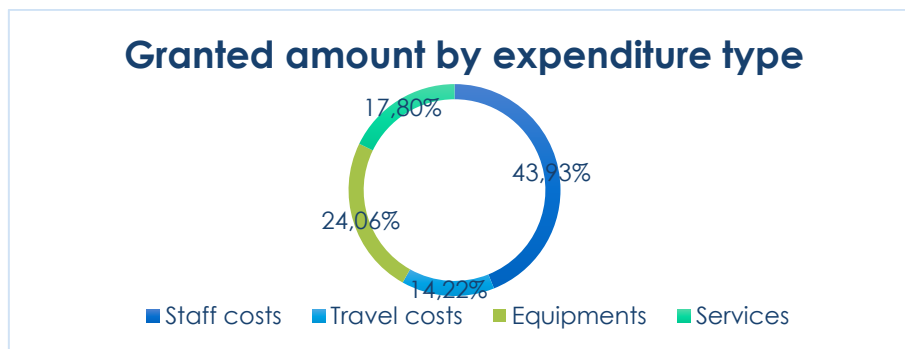
In terms of location, the Northern Great Plain region dominates (16 organisations), one organisation is based in Central Hungary and one in Northern Hungary. With two exceptions, the implementation took place in border municipalities in the North Great Plain region, part of which can be shown on a map, and the full list of the localities is listed below.



Locations of supported projects: Kémecse, Hajdúhadház, Záhony, Ibrány, Nyíregyháza, Napkor, Mogyoróska, Beregsurány, Kiszvárd, Füzesabony, Gyöngyös, Eger (2 colleges), Szabolcs, Hajdú-Bihar county's settlements, Bodrogolaszi, Hajdúszoboszló, Csaholc, Hodász, Paszab, Kismamény, Nyírpilis, Máriapócs, Kótaj, Debrecen, Öcsöd, Ibrány, Uszka, Tuzsér, Fülöpösdaróc, Napkor.

Headquarters of supported organisations: Nyíregyháza, Nagyálló, Debrecen, Budapest, Szihalom, Hajdúböszörmény, Öcsöd, Napkor.

The awarded projects spent 43.93% of their budget for staff costs, 24.06% for purchase of equipments, 17.80% for services and 14.22% for travel costs.



Granted amount	Staff costs	Travel costs	Equipments	Services
100%	43,93%	14,22%	24,06%	17,80%
31 003 527 HUF	13 618 627 HUF	4 410 190 HUF	7 459 310 HUF	5 517 400 HUF

Responses to needs in a disaster situation (Jacobs 2019; and by Dücker 2015; Bosmans 2022) can be grouped into the following five points:

- basic assistance (providing safety, food, shelter, medical care, medicines);
- information (about the event, developments, whereabouts of relatives, possible consequences of the event, health status);
- health care (prevention, diagnosis, treatment);
- emotional and social support (listening, acknowledgement);
- practical help (legal advice, financial support).

These 5 groups of needs and which had identified by the projects are presented in the table below. Each project supported not only covered a homogeneous set of activities, but also helped refugees by implementing several groups of actions. The following picture emerged in relation to the projects submitted and those funded, which supports the mixed form of support presented in the research cited above (Bartal A.):

Group of actions	Submitted applications (pcs)	Granted applications (pcs)
Basic assistance (security, food, shelter, medical care, medicines)	10	5
Information (about the incident, developments, whereabouts of relatives, possible consequences of the incident, health status)	4	3
Health care, medical assistance (prevention, diagnosis, treatment)	2	1
Social and emotional support (listening, recognition, children's programmes, leisure and recreation programmes)	24	16
Assistance and practical help (legal advice, financial support)	14	9
Establishing partnerships	3	10
Total:	57	44

This shows that social and emotional support is the most common type of assistance, with 42.11% of the submitted plans and 36.36% of the funded applications focusing on this area. Assistance and practical help came second (24.56% submitted, 26.47% supported) and the third main area was basic assistance (18.52% submitted, 36.36% supported).

Important partnerships have been formed during the programme, which have helped to achieve the key objective of providing multi-dimensional support to refugees from Ukraine in an even more effective, coordinated and focused way. An outstanding achievement in the field of cooperation is the establishment of a Facebook group "Szabolcs County Civilians Helping Refugees", a closed group of Roma Women of the 21st Century and Somnakuno Drom Association, which aims at assisting each other. Through this group, they were able to share refugee-related problems and suggestions for solutions quickly and efficiently. They made a collective proposal to decision makers, where they formulated the most pressing problems of the region. Requests were presented to aid agencies that still had resources, reserves, human resources, donations to distribute to refugees. They established a

Round Table, which, operating on a voluntary and professional basis, personally discussed the situation of refugees, reacting to current problems and urging participating organisations (Tabula Plaza Foundation (Nyíregyháza), Hungarian Red Cross (Nyíregyháza, Kisvárd), Maltese Relief Service (Debrecen), Horváth József entrepreneur (Kisvárd), EMMA Association (Miskolc), Roma Helpers for Ukrainian Refugees (Budapest), local nurse, family doctor - joint care of refugee families, Hanging out with Mom Association, Dorkász Foundation, UN -IOS, UNHCR.)

The cooperation with the Promoter considered by the promoters has been a great example of good practice and a source of great security for NGOs. The following feedback is provided on the experience of collaboration:

- flexibility
- excellent cooperation
- fast response
- efficiency
- regular consultations
- supportive environment
- reliable background
- patient, understanding attitude
- help in developing further cooperation (laptop)
- connecting beneficiaries - participation in common platforms

RESULTS, CONCLUSIONS

The primary conclusion of the programme is that the regional NGO sector dealing with refugees has been significantly weakened over the past 15 years, and organisations that could have effectively helped locally in the refugee crisis have disappeared. Several applications have been received from organisations that were seeking funding without local knowledge, previous relevant experience or a proper assessment of their own resources.

With a large number of vulnerable groups appearing, a sub-fund "Promoting the integration of Roma refugees in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg and Hajdú-Bihar counties" was launched, targeting specifically this multiply disadvantaged target group. This call for proposals should be highlighted in the context of a rapid response to needs. The Roma organisations were able to offer their assistance programmes quickly, as they had the right methodology and long-term experience of the useful assistance needed by people living on the margins of society. Organisations and projects offering effective solutions to the new calls were introduced into the system, with priority being given to the way of providing assistance rather than necessarily the geographical delimitation. For that reason, Budapest-based organisations operating in rural areas were also able to join the programme.

To conclude the programme, on 17 May 2023, the Carpathian Foundation organised a conference entitled Civilians at the Ends, where it presented the gap-filling civil initiatives implemented in the North-Eastern Hungary region. Representatives of the civil society, governmental and municipal actors supported and involved in this field - as well as representatives of international organisations - were invited. The conference and workshop was attended by around 100 participants, who used the Open Space technique to explore problem areas in a collaborative way. As a result of the presentations and collaboration, the organisations supported by the Carpathian Foundation were able to attract new donors to their very useful, valuable and able and highly mutually supportive work by raising additional funds and building new relationships.

The beneficiary organisations have made significant progress in a number of professional areas, such as their approach to the tasks, their sensitivity to the needs and situation of the target group, their capacity and their contacts, in line with the programmes implemented. There was a lack of communication and coordination between the organisations and territories affected by the refugee crisis after the war, and this programme has made a significant contribution to addressing this. Encouraged and supported by the programme, a number of collaborations have been established between the agencies and organisations affected. The programme has led to exemplary cooperation in the fields of civil-civil, civil-charitable, civil-governmental, civil-academic cooperation, which we are particularly proud of. The most important of these partnerships, beyond crisis management, was in the field of social responsibility. These tasks cannot be adequately carried out by governmental bodies alone, but civil society organisations can complement this work and aim to make it more effective, thanks to their commitment, their rapid response and their effective tools.

This has greatly contributed to the longer-term sustainability of the projects, even after the funds have dried up, by building an exemplary rural network of beneficiary NGOs.

The Carpathian Foundation believes that communicating about the transparent functioning of NGOs is of the utmost importance. Therefore, we expected regular communication from our grantees, as they were able to provide first-hand, credible information directly to their stakeholders. These messages have the potential to rewrite the propaganda narrative, as they are about real people, real problems and effective assistance. Despite the fact that they reach relatively few people, they are highly relevant.

TO BE CONTINUED

In the light of the results and experience gained so far, and in the perspective of the events in Ukraine, the programme should be continued. Unfortunately, the problems that have existed since February 2022 have not yet been resolved, and the domestic and international situation is constantly changing and evolving. However, the Carpathian Emergency Response Fund for Ukrainians Program was closed by our Foundation in 2023. The reason of this decision was that the Foundation's key partners started to implement complex projects in crisis management and refugee assistance in collaboration with the Foundation, which could no longer be financed by small donations. Donations were significantly reduced, and smaller-scale operations either died out or found other sources of support.

The support of the Foundation's programmes, the services provided by the "pilot projects", the knowledge of the field and the situation, the thinking and acting together, show a long-term usefulness that further strengthens the results has been achieved so far.

The Carpathian Foundation, in cooperation with its key partners, building on the experience gained during the programme, will implement from 2024 onwards, with the support and in close professional **partnership with UNHCR**, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, a complex assistance programme for people forced to flee the war in Ukraine. This 3-year programme and the inter-organisational linkages strengthen further the impact of the work done so far.