



EVALUATION OF THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND
FOR UKRAINIANS PROGRAM

CARPATHIAN FOUNDATION – HUNGARY 2024



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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.

Responding quickly to a situation is fundamental to the life and functioning of the organisation. Experience so far has shown that there is a strong need for rapid and effective intervention, as a call for proposals can often trigger an action. In the week before the programme was announced, a scoping exercise was carried out, with a search for resources, before the call for proposals was launched at the end of March. In the second week of the war, the Carpathian Foundation set up the Rapid Response Fund to finance civil initiatives to address the conflict and refugee crisis in Ukraine.

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 - Eco Companion 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 analysis aims to provide a detailed overview of the established Emergency Response Fund for Ukrainians Program for 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 period ². 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.

¹ [SituationUkraineRefugeeSituation \(unhcr.org\)](#), 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. \(2022.\)](#)

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 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 Ecompanion Foundation. This has allowed us to support specific NGO initiatives to address the crisis of the war in Ukraine and the refugee crisis. on 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.

The two associations are the Roma Women's Civil Association Somnakuno Drom from Nagykálló, which received 3.800.000.- HUF for the period 01.09.2022 - 31.12.2022 and 1.500.000.- HUF for the period 01.07.2023 - 30.09.2023; and the National Association of Roma Women of the XXI Century from Nyíregyháza, which also received 4.098.000.- HUF and 1.500.000.- HUF for the same periods. A total of 7 applications were received for the call for proposals, among them 4 were supported. It has allowed previously proven organisations and programmes with smaller amounts of funding, smaller areas and fewer target groups to develop further by accessing a larger, more concentrated resource.

During monitoring visits on the ground, the methods and conditions under which the beneficiary organisations carry out their work were examined. This also showed that the projects were effective, necessary and useful. Supervision (individual and group) supported their work.

Based not only on the programme proposals submitted, but also on the implementation process, the project reports and the importance of the tasks carried out, the Board of Trustees considered that these initiatives deserved to be sustained over a longer period of time and therefore awarded two further grants of similar or almost identical duration and intensity.

In the light of the above, the last call for proposals for the third quarter of 2023 ensured the continuation of the two successful programmes, with all available funds being absorbed. Thus, the 21st Century Roma Women and the Somnakuno Drom Association were again awarded a grant of HUF 1,500,000 each. The reduced funding was also for the development of the organisations, so that they can attract other funding - to apply their fundraising techniques in real-life circumstances, without becoming vulnerable to a single donor.

As small organisations, they have moved out of their existing support work, from geographical areas to 4-5 municipalities. 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.

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.

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 average implementation time of the applications submitted was 3.03 months, while the average time for the winning projects was 2.72 months, with a total of 52 months of programmes helping the target group. 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.

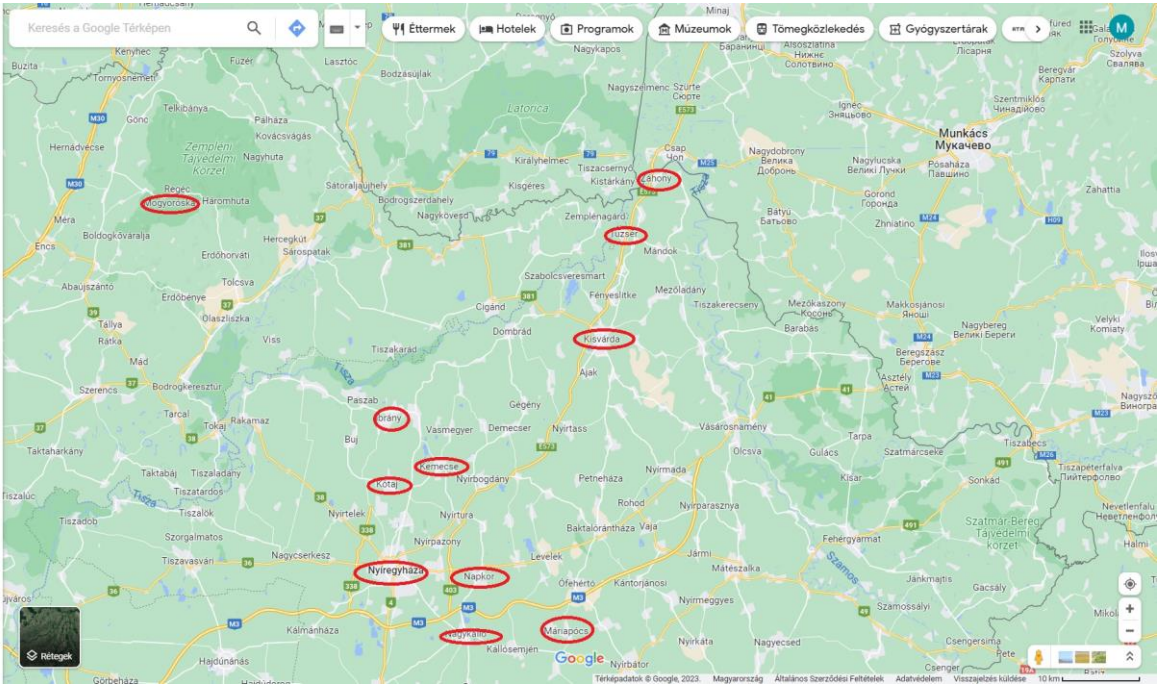
It was a priority in the evaluation of the applications that organisations operating in the region, in the Northern Great Plain or Northern Hungary were eligible for funding, so the headquarters and implementation sites are listed below.

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 under.

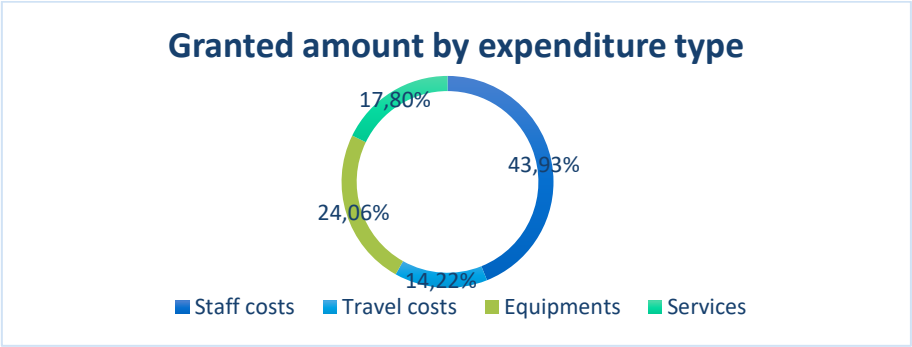
Locations of supported projects: Kemece, Hajdúhadház, Záhony, Ibrány, Nyíregyháza, Napkor, Mogyoróska, Beregsurány, Kisvárd, Füzesabony, Gyöngyös, Eger (2 colleges), Szabolcsi, Hajdú-Bihar county's settlements, Bodrogolaszi, Hajdúszoboszló, Csaholc, Hodász, Paszab, Kismanény, Nyírpilis, Máriapócs, Kótaj,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

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

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



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	equipment	services
100%	43,93%	14,22%	24,06%	17,80%
31 003 527 HUF	13 618 627 Ft	4 410 190 Ft	7 459 310 Ft	5 517 400 Ft

Responses to needs in a disaster situation (Jacobs 2019; and by Dückers 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 the ones 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 emerges of the projects submitted and supported:

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).

The short technical content and more detailed description of the activities proposed by the winning projects are summarised below:

National Association of Roma Women of the XXI.st Century
Individualised assistance for refugee families - children's programmes (for families with 10 children), assistance in obtaining official documents (refugee status, residence registration, subsistence allowance), finding temporary or longer-term accommodation, setting up administrative cooperation; fundraising according to the needs of the families. Purchase of required vaccinations, teaching materials, establishment and operation of an information point service.
Target group: ukrajnai roma családok
Granted amount (1): 1. 050.000.- HUF
Implementation period: 2022.05.01-2022.06.30.
Implementation site: Kemece, Hajdúhadház
Granted amount (2): 1. 250.000.- HUF
Implementation period: 2022.07.01-2022.08.31.
Implementation site: settlements of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg and Hajdú County
Granted amount (3): 4.098.000.- HUF
Implementation period: 2022.09.02-2022.12.31
Implementation site: Uszka, Tuzsér
Támogatási összeg (4): 4.000.000.- HUF
Implementation period: 2023.01.15.-2023.05.15.
Implementation site: Uszka, Tuzsér, Debrecen, Fülöpösdaróc
Granted amount (5): 1.500.000.- HUF
Implementation period: 2023.07.01-2023.09.30
Implementation site: Hajdúnánás, Tuzsér, Hajdúdorog
Somnakuno Drom Roma Women's Civil Association:
A complex, targeted mentoring programme for families in two stages - in-depth interviewing, corresponding individual/family consultations, problem-solving.
Target group: Roma refugee families from Ukraine
Granted amount (1): 998.400.- HUF
Implementation period: 2022.05.02-2022.08.02.
Implementation site: Záhony, Ibrány
Granted amount (2): 3.800.000.- HUF
Implementation period: 2022.09.02-2022.12.31
Implementation site: Záhony, Ibrány, Máriapócs, Kótaj
Granted amount (3): 4.000.000.- HUF
Implementation period: 2023.01.15-2023.05.15
Implementation site: Ibrány, Hodász, Nyírpilis, Kótaj
Granted amount (4): 1.500.000.- HUF

Implementation period: 2023.07.01-2023.09.30
Implementation site: Nagymihálydi, Geszteréd, Máriapócs, Nagyhalász
GREEN CICLE:
Blue and Yellow Community Afternoon: entertainment and guidance sessions - with family doctors, psychologists, childcare and employment specialists.
Target group: Ukrainian refugee families
Granted amount: 500.000.- HUF
Implementation period: 2022.08.10 – 2022.10.30.
Implementation site: Bodrogolaszi, Hajdúszoboszló
Kis Bocs Baby-Mum Public Service Association:
Complex medimmentor service in 3 settlements, 4 locations (Gyöngyös, Eger (2 locations), Füzesabony, for 3 months.
Target group: Ukrainian refugee families
Granted amount: 1.492.627.- HUF
Implementation period: 2022.08.05-2022.10.28.
Implementation site: Füzesabony, Gyöngyös, Eger (2 locations)
Dorkász Service Public Benefit Foundation:
A children's programme and dance workshop led by a dance teacher for 51 children.
Target group: Ukrainian refugee children
Granted amount: 450.000.- HUF
Implementation period: 2022.11.07-2022.12.11.
Implementation site: Debrecen
Hidden Treasures Down Association:
For children of refugee families from Ukraine, 10 status assessments and 50 sessions of individual therapeutic pedagogical development for 15 children. Playhouse sessions for recreation for the whole families 6 times.
Target group: disabled children from refugee families
Granted amount (1): 1.000.000.-
Implementation period: 2022.06.01-2022.08.31.
Implementation site: Nyíregyháza
Granted amount (2): 500.000.- HUF
Implementation period: 2023.01.15-2023.04.15.
Implementation site: Nyíregyháza
Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Association:
35 people camping in two rotations at Mogyoroska - excursions, tours, cultural activities.
Target group: Ukrainian refugee families and children
Granted amount (1): 280.000.- HUF

Implementation period: 2022.06.12-2022.08.30.
Implementation site: Mogyoróska
Granted amount (2): 472.000.- HUF
Implementation period: 2023.06.01-2023.08.30
Implementation site: Mogyoróska
„Medical Help Where Needed” Foundation:
Running 0-24 medical treatment points in Beregsurany, with volunteer doctors.
Target group: refugees in need of medical assistance, volunteers
Granted amount: 1.500.000.- HUF
Implementation period: 2022.06.01-2022.08.31.
Implementation site: Beregsurány
Hang out with Mum Association:
Strengthening the family relationship in Kisvárdá - lactation, babywearing and infant massage lectures and counselling; Strengthening the partnership in Nyíregyháza - the Nyíregyháza Cooperation Network for Refugees was established with 12 organisations.
Target group: Ukrainian refugee families with small children
Granted amount: 1.500.000.- HUF
Implementation period: 2022.07.01.-2022.09.30.
Implementation site: Kisvárdá
Működők Association:
Involving Roma refugee families staying in Napkor in the local care system, organising community days
Target group: Roma refugee families from Ukraine
Granted amount: 900.500.- HUF
Implementation period: 2023.04.01-2023.05.31
Implementation site: Napkor
Pantó Antal Preserve Association:
Supporting civilians and refugees in Nagymuzsaly, through traditional programmes, local values and fundraising.
Target group: Ukrainian refugee families
Granted amount: 212.000.- HUF
Implementation period: 2023.03.01-2023.05.30.
Implementation site: Öcsöd

The main collaborations which took place during the programme are summarised below. Here we have been able to draw on the technical reports sent in by the funded organisations. The summary includes the name of the funded organisation and the names of the collaborating partners involved in the implementation of the project.

Supported organisation: National Association of Roma Women of the XXI.st Century

Partners:

Tabula Plaza Foundation (Nyíregyháza)
Hungarian Red Cross (Nyíregyháza, Kisvárda)
Maltese Relief Service (Debrecen)
Horváth József entrepreneur (Kisvárda)
EMMA Association (Miskolc)
Roma Helpers for Ukrainian Refugees (Budapest)
aHANG (Budapest)
Szécsi Magdi (in Budapest for Roma Ukrainian refugees)
Community nurse, family doctor - joint care of refugee families
Hang out with Mum Association- we participated in their closing event
Dorkász Foundation- we bring program to Debrecen refuge camp
United Nations -IOS Szabó Mátyás- offered cooperation with refugee families in Uszka
Romaversitas- inclusion program for refugee students
Partners Hungary Foundation - Request for laptops for refugee students in education
Mayor - Uszka

Supported organisation: Somnakuno Drom Roma Women's Civil Association

Partners:

Municipality of Ibrány
National Gypsy Mission
Partners Hungary Foundation
IOM Mobile Team
UNHCR
National Association of Roma Women of the XXI.st Century

Supported organisation: Hidden Treasures Down Association

Partners:

Nyíregyháza Opportunity Centre
Gypsy Pastoral Care Officer of the Diocese of Nyíregyháza
Charity of the Diocese of Nyíregyháza
Tanoda at Máriapóc

Supported organisation: Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Association

Partners:

Dorkász Service Public Benefit Foundation

Supported organisation: „Medical Help Where Needed” Foundation” Foundation

Partners:

International Organization for Migration
Maltese Relief Service (Beregsurány)
AMDA, Japan

Supported organisation: Hang out with Mum Association

Partners:

Cooperation network for refugees in Nyíregyháza (12 organisations)
Várda Heritage Cultural Association
Municipal Primary Health Care/Paramedics Wing (Kisvárda)
St Damján Greek Catholic Hospital of Kisvárda

Supported organisation: GREEN CIRCLE

Partners:

Bodrog Association
The Artists' House Company

Supported organisation: Kis Bocs Baby-Mum Public Service Association

Partners:

Immigration Office - Refugee status, official certificate, legislation
School district: kindergarten, school enrolment
Government Office: services
District Office: joint cooperation with the Public Health Service
Cordelia Foundation: regular psychological counselling and therapy
Egri Community Foundation: Supporting Helping Hands as a new programme
SZGYF- Information on job opportunities
Municipality of Füzesabony- In-kind support for families
Füzesabony- Szihalom Social, Family and Child Welfare Centre- Joint cooperation with family caregivers, joint family visits.
Egri Community Foundation

Supported organisation: Dorkász Service Public Benefit Foundation

Partners:

Bakator Folk Music Ensemble

We consider it's an important achievement in the field of cooperation that a Facebook page for mutual assistance, a private group "Szabolcs County Civilians Helping Refugees" was created by the National Association of Roma Women of the XXI.st Century and the Szomnakuno Drom Association. They are able to share problems and suggestions for solutions related to refugees, quickly and efficiently. They want to create a common suggestion box for decision makers, where they can formulate the most pressing problems of the region. Then present it to those aid agencies that still have resources, reserves, human capacity, donations to distribute to refugees. These two organisations have also set up a round table to support physical cooperation, where they can discuss current problems face to face.

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
- organisation of professional round tables

Problem-map, based on the difficulties reported above:

Problem	Reason	Possible solutions
1. closed website	shortage of resources	applying for targeted grants
2. changes in overhead prices have a big impact on rents and maintenance costs	central regulation	They have three choices, agree to a favourable rent with the landlord or go to mass housing, the final point being to go back to Ukraine.)
3. it is increasingly difficult to donate non-perishable food, due to limited purchase quantities	central regulation	
4. individual support and development takes a lot of time and energy and may not have a successful outcome	individual and organisational coping issues	supervision
5. volunteer doctors ran out of leave, so they could come to help less and less often	work organisation, work-life-volunteering balance	
6. organisations individually have a lot of information, but this is not shared with other organisations	custom/individual solutions	developing and strengthening cooperation and common platforms
7. discrimination	social, economic, nationality discrimination	sensitisation, recognition/recognition of past experiences

RESULTS, CONCLUSIONS

The primary conclusion of the programme was that it became visible and tangible that the civil sector had been reduced and that organisations which could effectively help locally had disappeared from the region. Many applications were received from existing organisations that were still under-resourced, but lacked local knowledge of the area, had not previously engaged with this target group and had not adequately assessed their needs or their own resources.

The availability of the Roma Fund is a key factor in responding quickly to needs. When it seemed that a large number of vulnerable groups were appearing in the region, the sub-fund "Promoting the integration of Roma refugees in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg and Hajdú-Bihar counties" was published, focusing specifically on this multiply disadvantaged target group. Roma organisations have been quick to adapt with their assistance programmes because they understand the situation of individuals on the margins of society. They have a well-developed methodology and long-term experience of what useful help is needed by the target group. Therefore, organisations and projects providing effective solutions to the new calls for proposals have entered the system, where the priority is no longer necessarily geographical but rather the way of assistance, as organisations based in Budapest but also active in rural areas have been able to join the programme.

From the donor's point of view, all projects were important because they provided fast, effective assistance, locally, according to the needs that existed. The children's programmes and activities for mothers were important, as in a crisis situation it is particularly necessary to relax and get away a little bit from the current situation.

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 ble 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.

The Carpathian Foundation has encountered a number of situations and problems in the implementation of the supported projects, which, compared with the prognosis of the stay of refugees (M. A. Bartal), can be used to build a strong and effective programme(s). The most relevant statement is that the prognosis of staying in Hungary is the most significant determinant of needs, and the response to needs can indicate the effectiveness and professionalism of the CSOs supported by the Foundation.

The indicated needs of those wishing to stay **permanently** in Hungary were dominated by two basic in-kind support items, hygiene items and food.

The structure of needs of those **intending to stay indefinitely** is broadly similar to that of those intending to stay permanently, but their needs are expressed with much higher average scores, such as material support (food, toiletries, clothing), refugee management (translation and interpretation).

The needs priorities of respondents with **indefinite aspirations** to stay were weaker than those with permanently and indefinitely aspirations to stay, which included in-kind support (food, toiletries) and needs related to resolving their housing situation as a category of needs.

A characteristic of the small number of respondents with a **fixed-term** residence is that they did not identify any form of support that they "need enough".

To summarise the analysis, the four different residence categories represent four different need structures. These results can be applied in specific terms to the design of differentiated, effective and 'cost-effective' assistance and support programmes. The data suggest that the predominantly indicated medium-term needs of beneficiaries can be addressed in a mixed support programme: needs were in kind and material (food, toiletries and clothing, housing and asylum management), but there were also service needs (interpretation, medication support, language courses are important for the target group.

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 that have 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.