Hungary



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.

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. Overall, the education sector is underfunded with a lack of qualified teachers.

Finally, anti-immigration laws and regulations prevent unaccompanied minors from seeking protection in Hungary. During the war in 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. It has a double function: **provide expertise** and advice for Tdh operations and **develop regional projects** in Europe.

The two main programmes in the region are **Children and young people on the move** and **Access to justice for children and young people**. From April 2022, the Regional Hub has implemented an **emergency response for children and families from Ukraine**, providing direct, individual support to families and improving their psycho-social wellbeing.

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 programme**, being a cross-cutting theme, focuses on empowering children and ensuring their participation and developing safer environments for them through improving the child safeguarding systems of various institutions, including sports clubs, non-governmental organisations, and summer camps.

Our intervention map and thematic priorities





Children and young people on the move



Humanitarian aid



Access to justice for children and young people



Transversal child protection expertise

Access to justice for children and young people

We worked together with state funded legal aid and pro-bono lawyers to advance the quality of legal assistance for children in conflict with the law through capacity building and training of professionals.

We developed and piloted a digital tool for children, My Legal Support app, which will help to improve legal assistance services based on children's views.

We contributed to the European Challenge Paper on the topic of advancing LGBTI+ sensitive justice systems for children.

We launched a learning platform for professionals working with children in criminal proceedings, continued our collaboration with the PROMISE Barnahus network, and launched a project to enhance access to restorative processes for children.

Children and young people on the move & Humanitarian aid

To help Ukrainian refugee families in Hungary, we have launched an emergency response. Our multidisciplinary teams assess the needs of children and families living in reception facilities. We improve refugees' well-being and ensure their protection by providing child protection services and psychosocial support.

Our work is based on three pillars: field work, capacity building (trainings, materials and webinars for partners and organisations working with children) and advocacy (channelling experience from the field to local and national decision-makers).

We have enhanced self confidence, social incusion, connectedness while promiting empowerment of over 300 children and youth in Hungary through our Resilience Innovation Facilities in Győr and Budapest.

developed a European Training Curricula We professionals working with migrant children and youth, addressing drivers of violence against child migrants.

Child protection

Through our REVIS project, more than 1600 children and 80 teachers in 40 schools in Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania and Serbia were engaged in actions to prevent and reduce peer violence in and around schools.

We support UEFA to implement a Europe-wide child safeguarding programme. The dedicated online platform had about 30,000 visitors in 2022 and more than 7700 people completed one of our five courses offered in 11 languages.

The **Safeguarding Resource and Support Hub** supports organisations to improve their approaches to safeguarding against sexual exploitation, abuse and sexual harassment. The platform had 400,000 visitors, 100,000 downloads of resources, and 3900 people took the e-learning courses.

Outlook

Tdh seeks to expand its partnerships and explores further opportunities for helping children's wellbeing in Hungary. We have started a fundraising campaign, aiming to secure sustainable funding for the Resilience Innovation Facilities located in Győr and Budapest. While our emergency operations are winding down, we will continue supporting the mental health of Ukrainian children and families, in cooperation with trained volunteers, and the use of methodologies such as "Movement, Games, Sports and Creativity" (MGSC), "Reach Now", and "Problem Management Plus" (PM+).

Main partners and donors

Partners: Defence for Children International (Belgium), SAPI (Bulgaria), Brave Phone (Croatia), Validity Foundation (Hungary), Center for Youth Integration (Serbia), Council of Baltic Sea States (Sweden), Social Development Direct (UK).

Donors: European Union, UNICEF, DEC – Disasters **Emergency Committee, UEFA, International** Organization for Migration (IOM), the Canton of Lucerne (Switzerland), Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC), Oak Foundation, Tdh Germany.



Contact

Balázs LEHEL, Head of Regional Office balazs.lehel@tdh.org, +36 70 703 2476

Stay updated with our latest news

- tdh-hungary.org
- facebook.com/terredeshommeshungary
- linkedin.com/showcase/tdh-hungary
- facebook.com/rifhungary

Terre des hommes (Tdh) is the leading Swiss organisation for children's aid. Each year, we provide direct and indirect assistance to over four million children and their families in more than 30 countries through our health, protection and emergency relief programmes.

