

Annual Report 2025

Focus on a long-term presence and the power of collaboration

The summary presented on the following pages outlines the key milestones and achievements of the Hungarian Interchurch Aid's (HIA) work in 2025. Whilst our activities spanned many areas and communities, they were all fuelled by a common foundation: the dedication and collaboration that have guided the organisation for three and a half decades.

Our international humanitarian work continued to be fundamentally shaped by the Russia–Ukraine war. The programme, which has been running since the outbreak of the war, has provided continuous assistance in both Ukraine and Hungary; by 2025, the number of beneficiaries had reached 900,000, whilst the total cost of the programme exceeded 20 billion forints. The activities organised from the Berehove centre extended to Eastern, Central and Western Ukraine, and international coordination within the framework of the ACT Ukraine Forum also helped to expand the programme's reach.

In 2025, HIA also responded to other major disasters. Solidarity campaigns were launched to support victims of the earthquakes in Myanmar and Afghanistan, as well as to assist families and communities affected by the floods in Eastern Transylvania and the flooding of the mine in Praid.



Our domestic social and development work continued across more than 50 centres, through some 100 services. The Kapaszkodó ('Holding On') programme helped around 4,150 children catch up in more than 40 institutions, whilst in the 'Catching Up Communities' programme, 27 'Jelenlét Pont' centres were already providing services tailored to local needs.

Our involvement in education continued to expand. In addition to the Vocational Technical School and High School of Biatorbágy, the Bocskai István Primary School in Páty also came under the Aid Organisation's management in 2025. More than 1,000 institutions took part in the 10th Digital Theme Week, involving over 150,000 pupils and 7,000 teachers.

Traditional campaigns once again mobilised broad sections of the community. The nationwide 'Kapaszkodó' fundraising drive supported summer camps for 1,000 children; the 'Back to School Together!' campaign provided school kits for 2,000 children; and the 30th anniversary Advent Fundraising Campaign raised over 400 million forints in donations.



**Learn more about
HIA's work in
Hungary**



2025 in Numbers

60,697	people	helped in Hungary
50+	institutions	throughout Hungary
100+	services	provided through institutions in Hungary
4150	children	reached through our Kapaszkodó programme in 2025
1000	children	participated in developmental activities of the Kapaszkodó programme
150,000	pupils	participated in the 10th Digital Theme Week
2000	children	received school supplies as part of the 'Back to School' campaign
353	individual volunteers	volunteered 2005 hours in 2025
1667	million HUF	awarded in funding
550	staff members	



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Domestic assistance in 2025

Child development and creating opportunities

The Kapaszkodó programme has helped around 4,150 children catch up in more than 40 institutions. The developmental sessions, community programmes and camps served to reduce learning gaps, strengthen skills, foster social relationships and provide access to new experiences.

The programme's nationwide fundraising campaign focused on sending 1,000 children in need to summer camp. Around 270,000 people took part in the May–June campaigns, raising a total of 126 million forints. More than 205,000 donation vouchers were purchased in Tesco stores, generating 52 million forints in support.

National network of domestic social services

The HIA's domestic network of institutions operated interlinked child welfare, family support, crisis management, homeless care, addiction treatment, psychiatric and elderly care services in Budapest and several provincial towns. This range of services enabled not only the provision of immediate assistance but also longer-term development, care and reintegration.

Sure Start Children's Centres

The Sure Start Children's Centres support families with young children from the very earliest years of their children's lives. Regular sessions are designed to promote children's healthy development, prevent early disadvantages and strengthen parenting skills. At these community events, families have access to programmes that support development, professional advice and, where necessary, individual support. In 2025, such services were available in Kaposvár, Olaszliszka, Szendrő and several 'Catching-Up' localities, amongst others.



After-school clubs and development centres (called 'Tanoda')

The learning centres and development centres programmes supported the academic progress, skills development and social integration of school-age children. In addition to learning support and tutoring, digital, language, speech and language therapy, physical activity and community-building sessions were also introduced. E-Tanoda-style support complemented locally available opportunities with individual mentoring.

Temporary family accommodation and reintegration

Temporary family shelters provide safe, temporary accommodation for parents and children who have found themselves in a housing crisis or other serious social crisis. The aim of this support is to keep families together, resolve the crisis and rebuild the conditions necessary for independent living. Personalised social work also supports administrative procedures, job-seeking, children's development and the development of housing solutions necessary for moving forward. Reintegration model programmes and the 'Sorsfordító Házak' (Life-Changing Homes) are linked to the longer-term process of becoming independent.

National Help Centre

In 2025, the National Help Centre received more than 59,000 requests for help, and nearly 26,000 people received some form of support. Services included in-kind assistance, debt management, and social and information counselling. In each case, the professional team determined the appropriate form of assistance based on individual needs, complementing the services provided by the state welfare system.

Support for the homeless

Homeless people were supported through day centres, night shelters, temporary accommodation, meals from soup kitchens, street social work and outreach services. In addition to personal hygiene, meals and safe overnight accommodation, staff also provided support with administrative matters, job-seeking and reintegration. These services were available in Budapest, Debrecen and Gyula.

Care for the elderly

The Dunavarsány Care Home for the Elderly, a residential facility with capacity for 28 residents, provided personalised care, mental health support and community programmes. The landscaped surroundings and the dedicated communal area facilitated daily activities, social interaction and the organisation of festive and cultural programmes.

Catching-up Settlements and local presence

Under the 'Catching-Up Localities' programme, 27 'Presence Points' provided services. The work, based on local assessments and action plans, combined child development, employment support, housing interventions, community organising and cooperation with local care systems. A sustained local presence enabled the services to respond to the actual needs of families.

Families in crisis and homeless people

The National Help Centre, temporary family shelters, crisis centres and homeless care facilities provided in-kind support, meals, housing assistance, administrative support, counselling and personalised social work. The aim was not only to alleviate the immediate crisis but also to support families in staying together, becoming self-reliant and reintegrating into society.



Support for people with addictions and psychiatric conditions

Day centres, community-based and low-threshold services helped those affected through individual case management, group sessions, prevention programmes and support for family members. Psychiatric services provided a supportive community, regular counselling and support to reduce the risk of readmission to hospital.

Addiction care and prevention

The HIA's specialists supported people struggling with alcohol, drug and gambling addictions, as well as their family members, at eight locations. A total of 930 people accessed support services at day centres, information points and related programmes, whilst more than 1,000 people sought help through low-threshold care. The 'Gambling with Limits' programme also placed an emphasis on preventing gambling addiction through school- and community-based prevention sessions.

Psychiatric day care

The psychiatric day care services in Eger and Szolnok provided a supportive environment for people living with psychiatric illnesses and their family members. Individual and group programmes helped to reduce social isolation, maintain everyday skills, prevent readmissions to hospital and facilitate social reintegration.

Love does no harm

Victims of domestic violence were supported by crisis centres, confidential refuges, halfway houses, crisis clinics and online counselling. These services helped to ensure safety, support people in leaving abusive relationships, secure accommodation, and address legal, psychological, social and financial difficulties.



Education, campaigns and community involvement

Expanding educational involvement

In addition to running the Biatorbágy Innovative Technical College and Grammar School, in 2025 the HIA also took over the running of the Bocskai István Primary School in Páty. The HIA's educational activities were coordinated by the Foundation for Education, with a focus on strengthening modern teaching methods, digital skills, pupil wellbeing and the values of solidarity.

More than 1,000 public education and vocational training institutions from both sides of the border took part in the 10th Digital Theme Week. On average, the institutions carried out three educational projects, involving more than 150,000 pupils and 7,000 teachers.

Back to School Together!

The aim of the nationwide aid campaign in August was to support 2,000 children in need as they started school. The target was met: 2,000 children living within the HIA's network of institutions or within its sphere of influence received school supplies. Corporate partners joined the campaign by providing financial, logistical and procurement support.



Anniversary Advent Fundraising Campaign

During the 30th anniversary Advent Fundraising Campaign, donations totalling more than 400 million forints were received. The 1353 donation hotline raised 115.792 million forints from 231,584 calls, the Tesco voucher collection raised 107.1 million forints, private donations amounted to 63.772 million forints, and corporate donations totalled 114.164 million forints.

Seventy individual volunteers contributed 336 working hours to the campaign. 2.36 million forints were raised at the Advent Basilica Donation Point; corporate volunteers put together non-perishable food parcels worth 4 million forints, and more than 1,000 portions of hot meals were also distributed.

Volunteering

In 2025, the number of active individual volunteers increased by 12 per cent compared with the previous year. A total of 353 individual volunteers contributed 2,005 hours to the HIA's work. Their tasks included sorting clothes, serving meals, tutoring, running camps, collecting donations, supporting outreach events and organising Advent programmes.

Corporate volunteering was also significant: Provident involved around 60 staff members on six occasions; a further 193 staff members from 20 other companies carried out tasks such as packing, refurbishment, gardening and programme support. During the Advent period, around 288 staff members from 19 companies took part in voluntary activities.



Our international activities – 2025

Providing aid in relation to the Russia–Ukraine war

The HIA, which has been present in Ukraine for more than a quarter of a century, has been continuing its humanitarian aid programme in both Ukraine and Hungary since the day the war broke out. In 2025, the organisation carried out its activities in eastern, central and western Ukraine from its centre in Berehove. The programmes combined immediate humanitarian support, cash assistance, psychosocial and protection services, as well as recovery and community interventions.

The ACT Ukraine Forum, comprising member organisations of the ACT Alliance, was established on the initiative of the HIA. The aim of this coordination was to ensure that the participating organisations reached the population in need in a coordinated manner. However, due to a decline in international funding, it became necessary in 2025 to refine geographical and sectoral priorities, as well as to further strengthen the quality of operations and financial sustainability.

Assistance for refugees in Hungary

The Support Centre for Refugees from Ukraine continued to provide assistance to several hundred families in 2025. Tangible support included food and hygiene parcels, clothing and household items, childcare products, medicines and back-to-school kits. Integration was supported through psychological counselling, legal assistance, Hungarian as a foreign language tuition, interpreting and social work.

Particularly vulnerable households, including single parents, those caring for a chronically ill family member and low-income families, also received voucher support. The housing programme supported families through its own institutional accommodation and solutions to help them move into independent rented accommodation. In Budapest in 2025, the HIA provided 24,186 overnight stays for Ukrainian refugees.

In the community space set up for children aged 3–8, Ukrainian-speaking teachers and early years specialists supported the children whilst their parents were able to sort out administrative matters or take on work. The space also served as a bridge to the Hungarian public education system. Efforts to prevent domestic violence and support victims were supported by group programmes, individual case management, mental health support, assistance with administrative matters and, where necessary, the provision of accommodation.



Iraq

The HIA has been working in Iraq since 2003, and its Erbil office has been supporting the implementation of humanitarian and development programmes since 2016. In 2025, the office renewed its registration for the territories of the Iraqi federal government and the Kurdistan Region.

The Alqosh III project concluded in February 2025. As part of the programme, which was based on a model agricultural farm, 18 people took part in farm manager training and mentoring, eight of whom became permanently involved in running the farm. Nearly one hundred previously trained farmers were contacted, and three community meetings laid the foundations for a future agricultural cooperative. Market access was also improved through the procurement of packaging and labelling machines, as well as the development of the 'Alqoshi Farm' brand and a digital platform.

Between March and December 2025, the 'Complex Local Development in Northern Iraq' project linked agricultural training, mentoring of local authorities and support for civil society organisations across several regions. The programme also included equipment and infrastructure developments, and reached tens of thousands of people either directly or indirectly.

In the Sinjar region, a community centre, a market with 11 stalls and a refurbished sports centre were all completed and put into use in 2025. A lift was installed to make the community centre accessible, and local authority staff designated to run the centre received training in its upkeep. The market created income-generating opportunities for vulnerable groups, including women entrepreneurs.



Ethiopia

The project implemented in the West Guji region focused on improving access to safe water, hygiene, livelihoods and food security. Four hand-dug wells and a water system linked to two natural springs provided faster and safer access for 4,589 people. An accessible communal latrine and handwashing facility was built at the primary school in Bule Hora, which is used by 2,100 pupils.

As part of the programme, 98 people received training in water committee management and maintenance; 687 schoolgirls received training on hygiene and menstrual health, along with hygiene kits; and 30 women were given sheep following entrepreneurship and marketing training to help stabilise their livelihoods. Agricultural and agronomy training also reached smallholders, women farmers and young people.

Afghanistan

The HIA has been present in Afghanistan since 2001. The office in Mazar-i-Sharif was responsible for implementing humanitarian programmes, whilst the Kabul office was responsible for national coordination. In 2025, in collaboration with the WFP, the ACT Alliance and the Hungary Helps Agency, nearly 6,000 tonnes of food were distributed; the number of direct beneficiaries exceeded 600,000, and the total value of the programmes amounted to 4 billion forints.

Across ten districts of Faryab Province, the 2024–2025 programme provided support to a total of 432,866 people in the form of food, cash and nutritional supplements. As part of community-led voluntary initiatives, irrigation channels, roads and reservoirs were also cleaned, built and repaired. Following the earthquake in eastern Afghanistan on 31 August 2025, the HIA launched a fundraising campaign and an immediate food aid programme, which supported more than 600 households in Nangarhar Province.

Romania

Following the floods in Romania in May 2025, 151 families in Borosneu Mare received in-kind support, whilst a further 300 families received food and hygiene aid. In Praid, 231 families received a one-off cash grant, and funding was provided for 15 children to attend summer camp. In Borosneu Mare, a community centre and playground were partially refurbished, and a second-hand fire engine was handed over.

Myanmar

Following the earthquake in Myanmar on 28 March 2025, the HIA launched a solidarity campaign, offering 3 million forints in support through its local partners, and subsequently helped to restart education by providing support to pupils, teachers and schools that had lost their homes and schools.



**Learn more about
HIA's international
work**

