

## PROJECT PROPOSAL

<b>Project name</b>	Promotion of Life Perspectives and Inclusion of Refugees in Hungary II.
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<b>Location of project</b>	Hungary
<b>Implementing organisation</b>	Reformed Church in Hungary, Diaconal Office, Unit for Refugee Inclusion
<b>Duration of project</b>	01.01.2021 – 31.12.2024
<b>Total project budget</b>	330'936 CHF / 110'312'000 HUF
<b>Annual project budget</b>	82'659 – 82'959 CHF p.a.
<b>Author of proposal and date of submission</b>	Dora Kanizsai, Angela Elmiger, November 2020



## Table of Contents

<b>ABBREVIATIONS</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>2 POSITIONING THE PROJECT IN THE HEKS/EPER COUNTRY/PROGRAM</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>3 CONTEXT ANALYSIS AND JUSTIFICATION OF THE PROJECT CHOICE</b> .....	<b>5</b>
3.1 <i>POLITICAL SITUATION AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK</i> .....	5
3.2 <i>SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS</i> .....	7
3.3 <i>EVIDENCE BASE AND LESSONS LEARNT</i> .....	9
<b>4 PROJECT DESCRIPTION</b> .....	<b>10</b>
4.1 <i>PROJECT OVERVIEW</i> .....	10
4.2 <i>INTERVENTION LOGIC (OR THEORY OF CHANGE)</i> .....	10
4.3 <i>BENEFICIARIES / TARGET GROUP(S) / PEOPLE OF OUR CONCERN</i> .....	12
4.4 <i>GEOGRAPHIC INTERVENTION AREA</i> .....	13
4.5 <i>WORKING APPROACHES AND METHODS</i> .....	13
4.6 <i>CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES</i> .....	15
Gender .....	15
Resilience building .....	16
Conflict sensitivity .....	16
<b>5 PROJECT / IMPLEMENTATION SET-UP</b> .....	<b>17</b>
5.1 <i>COORDINATION OF THE PROJECT</i> .....	17
5.2 <i>PARTNERSHIP</i> .....	18
<b>6 RISK ANALYSIS</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<b>7 OPPORTUNITIES</b> .....	<b>20</b>
<b>8 EXIT / PERSPECTIVES FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE PROJECT</b> .....	<b>20</b>
<b>9 COMMENTS ON THE ENCLOSED BUDGET</b> .....	<b>20</b>
<b>10 MONITORING AND EVALUATION</b> .....	<b>21</b>
<b>11 FINANCIAL CONTROL</b> .....	<b>21</b>
<b>12 ANNEXES</b> .....	<b>21</b>

## **ABBREVIATIONS**

AMIF	Asylum Migration and Integration Fund of the European Union (2014-2020)
AMF	Asylum and Migration Fund of the European Union (2021-2027)
ERF	European Refugee Fund (-2013)
TCN	Third Country Nationals
DO	Diaconal Office of the RCH
RCH	Reformed Church in Hungary
HRCA	Hungarian Reformed Church Aid
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
RCA	Reformed Church in America

## 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This proposal is building on the achievements and the experiences of the HEKS/EPER Country program 2017-2020 and the “Promotion of Life Perspectives and Inclusion of Refugees in Hungary” project. Since 2015 the political discourse in Hungary continuously maintained the theme that immigration is among the highest risks for national security, as well as organizations that aid immigrants. In this fearful and hostile social environment recognized refugees and documented immigrants face extremely challenging situations in their daily life in Hungary, not only in daily situations but also in official procedures while seeking access to basic public services. Since 2015 the situation for refugees and migrants in Hungary has become increasingly difficult, there is (i) a deteriorating legal environment focusing specifically on the immigration system, border protection and the abolishing of financial aid upon arrival, (ii) the withdrawal of integration services, but also (iii) a general erosion in social support that puts marginalized communities in hardship e.g. shrinking the access to social security, and the (iv) shrinking space for civil society that was the last resort in aiding marginalized communities such as people in need among the immigrant communities within Hungary.

The RCH recognizes these issues and seeks to play a larger role in the inclusion and care of refugees in Hungary. In the past project cycle the RCH with the help of HEKS/EPER and the partnership of Kalunba Social Services Ltd was able to take ownership for its refugee ministry, to maintain its vital services through these difficult years and to remain one of the few significant actors in Hungary in the inclusion of refugees. After the successful completion of the previous four-year project cycle, RCH continues its commitment for the refugee ministry and takes over the responsibility for implementing the social and educational inclusion program, while Kalunba's focus will be on the support of adults' vocational development and employment.

The objective of this project is to develop the commitment, structures and capacities of and within the Reformed Church in Hungary for the inclusion of refugees and migrants, both by supporting the inclusion of refugees and migrants through an educational program and social work and by sensitizing church members and influencing the public narrative about refugees in Hungary.

The education program focuses on facilitating the inclusion of refugee children into the Hungarian school system through tutoring and afterschool support and by offering courses for adults to improve Hungarian language skills and recognized general education levels – both preconditions for access to the labour market and for qualification for the simplified naturalization process for refugees. Participants in these programs are also supported by social workers who assist them in coping with daily life in Hungary by providing practical advice and support in finding housing and jobs.

The wider sensitization project for RCH's congregations will take on many forms to help shift the attitude of the broader population “from fear to empowerment” and also help churches contribute to an alternative narrative about refugees in the public discourse. This will be done for example through communications support to share the news of this vital work within the church and beyond, study trips to learn best practices, working with the Mission Office and Diaconia to focus on refugee work for one of their yearly mission conferences, include refugee awareness and competency in pastor and elder trainings.

The structure of the project puts a lot of responsibility on church leadership, but also on other levels of the church to respond supportively and take up this work. Congregational support, through both ordained and lay church leadership, will serve as an important form of support for church leadership to take a more active stance on refugee issues and sensitization.

The second phase of the project is an improved continuation of the first phase, considering the learnings from maintaining this work in a shrinking space. In the new phase, the project can count on stronger ownership of the church, which is reflected in a new structure that anchors the refugee ministry further under the roof of the Diaconal Office. Other local and international partnerships are strengthened as well, so that the project e.g. will be able to use public community spaces and can count on a steady financial support of international church partners. Furthermore, a focus on staff capacities and wellbeing was added to maintain a psychosocial balance despite shrinking space for this work.

## 2 POSITIONING THE PROJECT IN THE HEKS/EPER COUNTRY/PROGRAM

HEKS/EPER is setting up a country strategy with the RCH with the overall goal that marginalized groups, Roma and Refugees/Migrants are better integrated into church and society thanks to strengthened church commitment, structures, capacities and involvement of pastors, lay people and volunteers.

The project "Promotion of Life Perspectives and Inclusion of Refugees in Hungary" is part of this country strategy, covering the work with refugees and migrants and contributing to the CC objectives "Strengthening and Inclusion of the disadvantaged", "Strengthening of Church life" and possibly "strengthening". The project also contributes to HIP outcome 2 (overcoming political, social and economic discrimination) through the outputs "group relations improved", "systemic access to services", "communities claim rights", "duty-bearers fulfil obligations".

## 3 CONTEXT ANALYSIS AND JUSTIFICATION OF THE PROJECT CHOICE

### 3.1 POLITICAL SITUATION AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The RCH has been working with refugees since 2006 with the founding of its Refugee Ministry, first refugee reception centers were regularly visited by mission workers and volunteers, providing counselling and basic care to the asylum seekers, but also offering services that aimed to improve the relationship with the camp staff and the asylum seekers, such as offering English classes by native English teachers that came to serve through various church partnership programs. In 2008 the Synod adopted the Strategy for the mission among the refugees<sup>1</sup>. Soon the foundations of a basic integration program were put down and the ministry started to grow and offered significant services throughout the years.

2015 saw a large increase of human migration and the emergency response capacity of the Hungarian Reformed Church Aid sought to respond quickly and efficiently to the needs of thousands of refugees in the country by providing much needed shelter, clothing, toiletries, and food. At the same time, the refugee ministry went through a restructuring as a consequence of the anti-immigration political turn and also due to the coinciding delay of the AMIF 2014-2020 allocation's distribution. In Hungary even in the times when the state provided some integration services the AMIF (or previously the European Refugee Fund) were enabling the valuable gap-filling services in education, housing, employment services for TCNs. ERF funded projects came to an end in June 2015 and the new allocations of first funds started in March 2016. In these uncertain times Kalunba was set up with the ability to react promptly even in the times without EU funds available thanks to the RCH's partners solidarity funds. The HEKS/EPER partnership solidified not only the previous funding cycle but also the stability of the relationships between these actors. EU funds were once again released, and the operation could serve over 400 clients yearly between 2016-2018. Many of the clients gained well established jobs, received Hungarian language exams, various qualifications, and even Hungarian citizenship despite the ever changing legal, socio-political environment.

Since 2015 in Hungary the political communication and public discourse has been dominated by references to the threats to national security that migrants and refugees present, the obligation of Hungary to defend the borders of EU, and the need to protect "Christian Europe" from "Islamization" and the dangers of terrorism. This tone uses the anxiety of citizens for mere political purposes and had a huge impact on public discourse.

According to UNHCR, the number of Asylum-seekers in Hungary has seen a major increase since 2012 when the number of asylum according to the Hungarian Central Statistical Office was just 2,157 people and around 450 people were recognized annually. This number grew to 18,900 applications in 2013 with less than 420 recognized persons. In 2014 there were 42,777 applications for asylum and, of these, just over 480 were accepted. 2015 saw even more people seeking asylum in Hungary, with 175,693 applications and only 350 recognized.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://reformatus.hu/documents/502/Strategy\\_of\\_RCH\\_on\\_Mission\\_among\\_Refugees.pdf](https://reformatus.hu/documents/502/Strategy_of_RCH_on_Mission_among_Refugees.pdf)

Refugees had been coming through Hungary for many years, but this migration movement was not visible to the wider public until after the January 2015 Charlie Hebdo attack in Paris, France. After this time, the government took a hard line on refugees and capitalized on the nations fear to enact harsh laws to keep asylum seekers out. In the matter of around a year, not only the asylum law but even the constitution has been altered, a border fence was erected, financial support for refugees arriving after April 1, 2016 has been cut off, and public discourse about refugees has taken a turn for the worse. Ever new editions of the anti-refugee and anti-migrant communications campaigns have been funded by the government in order to steer public opinion in a certain direction.

The Fundamental Law of Hungary includes provisions on the right of refugees to asylum and protection from refoulement (Article XIV). However, the Seventh Amendment to the Hungarian Fundamental Law, adopted on the world refugee day in 2018 (the 20th of June), includes a new provision in the beginning of Article XIV which states: "No alien population shall be settled in Hungary" (Article XIV (1)). The constitutional amendment also includes a provision which denies asylum to a foreign national who "arrived in the territory of Hungary through any country where he or she was not persecuted or directly threatened with persecution" (Article XIV (4)).<sup>2</sup> Since Hungary regards Serbia as a safe third country and as an asylum seeker can only submit an application in the transit zones along the Serbian border, the new inadmissibility ground has made it practically impossible to obtain refugee status in Hungary.

The "crisis situation due to mass immigration" decreed by the Hungarian government on the 15th of September 2015, is still in force after regular extensions by the authorities, the most recent extension is in place until March 7, 2021. The "crisis situation" has not been lifted, even though due to the restrictive measures the number of asylum applications has decreased to 671 in 2018, 500 in 2019, 95 in the first half of 2020.<sup>3</sup> (Hungarian Central Statistical Office). The Hungarian authorities claim that the current number of asylum applications as well the "masses in the Balkans and Turkey" continue to justify the maintenance of the "crisis situation".

Though it was almost impossible to access Hungary over the borders and file valid asylum claims since 2018, new refugee recognitions still happened till February 2020, thanks to the legal aid with court appeals provided by the Helsinki Committee (the official statistics for 2019 are not public). Refugees who arrived in the past years were able to do successful family reunifications mainly thanks to our housing, social, and employment assistance. During 2019 we received many returning refugees from Western Europe, who realized with their Hungarian status they should live in Hungary up until receiving Hungarian citizenship at least, or who were criminalized in Western Europe and were forced to return and needed to restart here. We took up several of these clients during 2019 and believe this assistance is also vital in prevention of criminalization of migrants who find it harder to integrate.

Out of the two Funds under the Migration and Home Affairs of the EU, the national allocation of AMIF (Asylum Migration and Integration Fund) is no more available for Integration since February 2018 though the allocation should be dispersed until the end of 2020. Though the AMIF security and reception facility related projects are still being used – by the government. Also, the Internal Security Fund is continually advertising calls for proposals, where only the government can hand in project applications.

Felipe González Morales, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants visited Hungary and Kalunba in July 2019, in an effort to monitor the human rights situation of migrants and to engage in a dialogue with the government and with civil society. He also visited the transit zones and two other facilities where there is a small number of refugees. He concluded that a "manufactured immigrant crisis" exists in Hungary and called on the Hungarian authorities to end their "crisis" approach. In his final report, Felipe González Morales gave voice to his opinion that "regrettably, in the past years, civil society organizations working on migrants' rights in Hungary have experienced multiple obstacles in carrying out their legitimate and important work" <sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> [https://njt.hu/translated/doc/TheFundamentalLawofHungary\\_20190101\\_FIN.pdf](https://njt.hu/translated/doc/TheFundamentalLawofHungary_20190101_FIN.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.ksh.hu/docs/eng/xstadat/xstadat\\_annual/i\\_wvnv003.html](https://www.ksh.hu/docs/eng/xstadat/xstadat_annual/i_wvnv003.html)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24830&LangID=E>

Also, from the above-mentioned report we can read about three significant phenomena: “The increasing number of emigration of Hungarians has led to demographic challenges and a labour shortage in the country. Migrant workers contribute to filling the labour gaps on the market, Hungary is facilitating the arrival of an increasing number of migrant workers from other countries. In 2018, nearly 50,000 migrants received work visas in Hungary (with more than 16,000 Ukrainians, and a considerable number from Serbia, and China).

The Hungarian Government has also put in place a scholarship programme attracting an increasing number of international students from countries including for example Iran, Iraq, and Syria. In the academic year of 2019/2020, the Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship Programme has granted scholarship to over 5,000 students to study in Hungary. The cooperation is based on bilateral agreements with over 70 institutions across five continents.

The report suggests “The rise on the number of migrants in the country requires an urgent examination of the existing anti-migrant rhetoric in both official and public discourses, as it may affect negatively the daily life of migrants thus hindering their integration into the society.”

Asylum seekers, refugees and migrant workers are in the country, but no European funds are used to assist these populations in their short- or long-term life in Hungary. And this fact is never mentioned as a security risk.

### 3.2 SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

#### **Key data from the immigration statistics:**

**Foreign citizens** residing in Hungary in 2020: total 199,957 (female 82908, male 117 049)

- from Asia: male 28 779, female 24 320)
- from Africa: male 4 859, 2 419)

**People naturalized** in Hungary by country of origin in 2019: in total: 255, most relevant countries in our program:

- Afghanistan: 8, Iraq 7, Iran 21, Mongolia 12, Syria 13, Egypt 103, Algeria 8, Nigeria 7.

**Asylum seekers** arrived in Hungary by citizenship in 2019: Afghan 197, Iraqi 171, Iranian 23, Pakistani 27, Syrian 21, in total with others 500)

We can know the statistical information of the first half of 2020 from UNHCR’s internal data provision: only 11 asylum requests were submitted (7 m, 4 w). 66 cases were still pending on 30 June 2020.

Recognition data:

**Persons granted refugee status** (January-June 2020):

- Total of 77 (42 Pakistani, 12 Iraqi, 6 Irani, 5 Afghani)
- 38 men (17: 0-13 years old, 1: 14-17 years old, 12: 18-34 yrs old, 8: 35-64 yrs old)
- 39 women ( 15: 0-13 yrs old, 4: 14-17yrs, 12: 18-34 yrs, 6: 35-64 yrs, 2: 65+)

Persons granted subsidiary protection:

- Total of 36 (24 Afghani, 2 Eritrean, 4 Iraqi)
- 20 men (9: 1-13 yrs, 5: 18-34 yrs, 5: 35-64 yrs)
- 16 women (8: 0-13 yrs, 6: 18-34 yrs)

Numbers of unaccompanied minors:

- 2 persons requesting asylum in total:
  - One Iraqi male child between 0-13 years
  - One Syrian female child between 0-13 year
- No positive decisions in 2020 so far

Informal spoken information from September 2020 from a high-ranking immigration officer: there are currently around 2500 valid IDs of people of international protection in Hungary (meaning recognized refugees or subsidiary protected people who are still having real ties to Hungary).

To the Gallup World Poll 2018 question: Is the city or area where you live a good place or not a good place to live for immigrants from other countries? results came out as follows: Among the OECD countries Hungary ranks with the lowest number of 17%, a -36% drop compared to 2010.<sup>5</sup>

The minimum wage in 2019 is 450 EUR, average gross earnings in the accommodation and food service activities is 674 EUR, 800 EUR in construction, and 1000 EUR in the economic branches together. With the negative effects of COVID-19 on the economy in the Q2 2020 the GDP is -13.6%, the industrial production is -7,8% (compared to the same period the previous year), the unemployment rate is 4.6%. Housing prices in a two-bedroom downtown apartment are usually around 420 EUR plus utilities, a newly arriving client in the restaurant industry would earn only around 477 EUR net. Finding ends meet is extremely challenging.

In 2015 the Hungarian government has implemented legal changes under a populist claim that refugees should not get any more support than native Hungarians, and so they should receive the same treatment and use the same services. The monthly financial aid in the first two years upon obtaining the legal protection status was abolished. The economic stress refugees experienced eased somewhat in 2019 as the employment market became interested to seek for immigrants in the country to cover the extreme shortage of labour force. Early 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic the positive environment on the labour market changed, and refugees working in the service industry first lost working hours and eventually became unemployed. As typically in the restaurant industry, refugees were not employed legally therefore were neither insured nor entitled to unemployment benefits, nor for COVID-19 financial aid.

By law, children seeking asylum and those with international protection have the right and obligation to participate in kindergarten and schooling up to the age of 16. However, the Intercultural Education Programme issued by the Ministry of Education in 2006 encouraged schools to draft their own intercultural education program and hire teacher's assistants for classes where refugee kids are members, and the Ministry provided extra funding for schools drafting their programs to assist them in financing their goals (not anymore). At the time of this program only three schools in Budapest took advantage of this opportunity – two of which did so with the help of the RCH and are now well known to be intercultural and friendly schools for migrant and refugee children. Nowadays, the financial support is not in place anymore, so the schools are receiving more and more migrant-refugee kids due to their good reputation, but the quality is going down since they do not get the extra funding. Schools cannot finance the teacher's assistant's positions and classrooms are large with no chance for personal explanations for students who may need it. Old school teaching styles – frontal presentation – are not helpful and understandable for those who are beginners in Hungarian. In addition, major subject themes are rarely projected on the walls, teacher's handwritten notes on the board are hard to read, and no printed summaries are handed out to students to use as a tangible aid for studying. When we partner with schools we explain the importance of these to the teachers and try to persuade them to use methods such as these so beginners can better understand and pick up information easier. It is a long road though, and one that is not well funded.

There are positive changes in the education system caused by the pandemic, the online school stresses the need of using technological developments that aid also the recently arrived migrant children. Children can develop their skills in digital technology and media literacy, they become more independent and afterschool classes can take place more often, since they don't have to be physically present for each class, saving time that would be spent with commuting. Online teaching also provoked innovative and interesting ways of teaching, bringing in video and audio material, including games and interactive methods. However, the teacher's lack of attention in the big school classrooms and due to the overwork they suffer make it necessary for students to receive extra attention, if not by the parents, than by programs like ours.

Physical presence and regular conversations with peers is also essential when integrating into a community. For many students, it was difficult to keep up their level of Hungarian, and they also greatly missed regularly going to a community. There has to be a cautious awareness to organize community events as soon as possible throughout the pandemic, taking highest care on the necessary safety instructions. Also one has to keep up with the developing online tools for community building

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<sup>5</sup> <https://news.gallup.com/poll/267248/worldwide-communities-good-migrants.aspx>

and leisure time together eg. in the pandemic we paired up volunteers not only for online afterschool classes but for peer yoga classes as well.

The pandemic is used for further anti-immigration propaganda, news headlines say “All migrants attempting to enter Hungary illegally pose health and "biological" risks, to be averted, “Uncontrolled Migration ‘Extreme Danger’ to Hungary’s Public Health”.

### 3.3 EVIDENCE BASE AND LESSONS LEARNT

Lessons learnt from successful / challenging experiences	Modifications
In the previous project the aim was to extend the implementing locations to different congregations and even outside of Budapest this didn't happen and the reason for that is twofold: the negative pressure on organizations didn't allow for this extension, and Kalunba could provide better efficiency and strength if it continued being the centre of these education-community events.	As there is a shortage of funds Kalunba has to give up its current 270 sqm community centre and rely more on congregational capacities, that will overall ensure better congregational cooperation and more strengthened partnership, geographical diversification. But at the same time a small, sustainable centre will be sought for via the municipality's help.
Cooperation within the RCH and especially with the DO improved; the unit for refugee integration found its place in the DO structure and the steering group was beneficial for the general operations.	DO will now also take over full responsibility for the educational program – in agreement with Kalunba, who will focus more on vocational development and economic integration.
Despite the ever-shrinking funding, the education program has to be led by paid professional teachers, but their work should be complemented with a team of volunteers. This has been a successful experience and will have to remain like this.	Teachers have to be employed for the education of refugees, and volunteer recruitment, training and support has to be improved for more efficient volunteer involvement.
Having a multi-year, focused and successful project such as this HEKS/EPER funded one, gives the safety and security to build on and plan with to access further sources of funds and participate more efficiently in networks etc.	We will start to communicate with all our larger donors in a group dialogue ensuring fuller transparency and trust. The HEKS/EPER project will be presented as our core structure that can be supported with smaller extra grants enabling some further activities and services.
No matter how many resources we would put into communication, we could never compete with the government's anti-immigration campaign's reach. Sadly, our messages and statements cannot be loud enough.	The communication strategy has to rely upon intense storytelling, gathering personal experiences and moments from the daily reality of our activities, and from the face-to-face meetings in the community building experiences. We reframe the sensitization pillar under community building and storytelling.
It's extremely valuable and necessary to have a home for this ministry that serves not only as a functional service point but a lighthouse for the community.	Unfortunately, in the times of shrinking financial basis it's only realistic to close the current centre and rely on congregational and church infrastructure. One more possibility that's being currently explored is to win space from local municipalities.
Tutoring children is not only an essential service that the government lacks to provide, it's also a very key way to connect with families and build trust and long term relationships.	Continue using contacts with children as an entry point to work with the families.
In the times of constant change and risks and conflicts there was not enough emphasis and care for the wellbeing of staff and volunteers and for a successful sustainable future project and refugee ministry in general, we see it essential to improve.	In the winter of 2019, a dialogue was started. The RCH would receive a mission worker specialized in these services. Jeffrey July Bouman will hopefully arrive to strengthen the team of the refugee ministry starting in the Spring of 2021.

## 4 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### 4.1 PROJECT OVERVIEW

The RCH recognizes the hardships faced by refugees in Hungary and seeks to play a larger role in the inclusion and care of them. Through this, the RCH hopes to contribute to an alternative narrative about refugees into the public discourse as well as further aid refugees in their transition to life in Hungary. In the past project cycle the RCH with the help of HEKS/EPER and the partnership of Kalunba Social Services Nonprofit Ltd was able to take ownership for its refugee ministry, to maintain its vital services through these difficult years and to remain one of the few significant actors in Hungary in the inclusion of refugees. After the successful completion of the previous four-year project cycle, RCH continues its commitment for the refugee ministry and takes over the responsibility of executing the education program. While Kalunba's most focus will be centred on the support of adults' vocational development and employment, under the umbrella of strengthening the social farm Barakfarm that was finally officially launched in 2019 after many years of preparations<sup>6</sup>.

The project is structured in two sub-projects: an education component as well as a wider sensitization component through strengthened communities with an additional cross-cutting element that's focusing on the wellbeing of staff and volunteers.

Through this project, the RCH takes ownership of the Refugee Ministry in order to reaffirm its 2015 Statement of the General Convent<sup>7</sup> and implement its work into the church's wider congregational life. The structure of the project puts a lot of responsibility on church leadership, but also on other levels of the church to respond supportively and take up this work. Congregational support, through both ordained and lay church leadership, would serve as an important form of support for church leadership to take a more active stance on refugee issues and sensitization. This work would create structures for support in order for church leaders to push forward on these topics, knowing that they have a broader scope of support from the RCH behind them.

The wider sensitization project for RCH's congregations will take on many forms to help shift the attitude of the broader population "from fear to empowerment" and also help churches contribute to an alternative narrative about refugees into the public discourse. This will be done in a variety of ways, including: communications support to share the news of this vital work, study trips to learn best practices, working with the Mission Office and Diaconia to focus on refugee work for one of their yearly mission conferences, include refugee awareness and competency in pastor and elder trainings.

We strongly believe that sensitization can only be efficient by creating opportunities for face to face encounters and sharing the real stories of refugees overcoming destruction and restarting their life in Europe in a strong local community that is supporting them. Thanks to our education program and social work we have the chance to practically improve the wellbeing of our clients, and this needs to be heard. The strong cornerstone of our local community has been and will be the St. Columba's Church of Scotland, but we will actively reach out to other congregations to create local gatherings and programs in their premises.

### 4.2 INTERVENTION LOGIC (OR THEORY OF CHANGE)

**Overall goal: Refugees and migrants are better included in Hungarian Society thanks to strengthened church commitment, structures and capacities.**

#### **Outcome 1: Structure**

**The RCH maintains ownership of the Refugee Ministry in order to reaffirm its statement of the General Convent and the Refugee Strategy, and implement its work into the church's wider congregational life**

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<sup>6</sup> Barakfarm is meant to be a strong social farm in the proximity of Budapest, using the positive environment of the government's initiative to strengthen rural activities and create a strong agriculture. In the long run it's meant to generate enough profit that will be able to fuel Kalunba's activities. In the meantime it creates job opportunities for refugees who come from agricultural backgrounds, and who can eventually move to the farm and enjoy the rural areas where they prefer to live.

<sup>7</sup>[https://www.reformatus.hu/data/documents/2015/11/06/RCH\\_Statement\\_Regarding\\_the\\_Refugee\\_Situation.pdf](https://www.reformatus.hu/data/documents/2015/11/06/RCH_Statement_Regarding_the_Refugee_Situation.pdf)

The "Refugee Integration Unit" is responsible for the implementation of the project under the DO, fulfilling the responsibilities according to the Refugee Strategy, employing the staff responsible for education and coordinating their activities.

#### **Output 1.1: Maintaining the structure of local partnership among involved church partners**

The regular bi-monthly meetings of the Steering Group will ensure the well-functioning of the partnership, the DO, the Ecumenical Office, the Mission Department, Scottish Mission and Kalunba. Through the regular exchange of these partners if needed, other areas of the church structures can be invited and involved, and mutual events can easier initiated, for 2021 the target is a total of 10 meetings. To improve the structure in the Q1 2021 a conflict sensitivity assessment will be done, and gender and child protection trainings will be held and the policies will be drafted.

#### **Output 1.2: Maintain partnership with the Ecumenical international partners**

Ecumenical partners contribute to the political and financial support of the ministry, to increase transparency and trust, there will be a joint communication towards them, with a first partner meeting in 2021, and ca 10 mutual visits yearly. A study visit to Swiss partners will be organized.

#### **Output 1.3: The responsibility for social inclusion of migrants and refugees becomes a regular topic in church conferences, pastors training events, congregational events**

Despite the alienating political environment, as a result to the strong national and international ecumenical structures the legitimacy and representation of the ministry can be more successful. Church organized trainings and events will allow the ministry to speak for social inclusion and social cohesion (yearly min. 5 occasions), and therefore wider communities within and outside of the church will receive the alternative narrative and be more inclusive and compassionate of migrant and refugees in their own communities. A minimum of 20 articles, reports will be published yearly.

### **Outcome 2: Education/ Inclusion**

#### **Refugees and migrants have the necessary practical knowledge to deal with everyday situations, education, jobs and housing**

When the state ceased to provide any assistance in integration, it's up to NGOs, churches and local communities to help refugees solve everyday situations. With the team in the ministry and the allies in the local communities our support mechanism can be strong despite the shrinking financial measures. Through education and job search support, advocacy and counseling in housing, the long-term focus is on helping refugees to a dignified life, and as the ultimate protection, obtain Hungarian citizenship. 80% of the clients will report a positive change in their daily reality.

#### **Output 2.1.: Refugee and migrant children are better included into schools**

As schools fail to address refugee and migrant students' needs, with our teachers and volunteers we equip students to succeed in the public education system. Students are offered after school classes, counselling, peer to peer support via volunteers, free time activities, non-formal education approaches, support for their parents to better understand and fulfil the role of a parent in the Hungarian education system. We partner in teacher training programs and host interns from universities, through this we contribute to the improvement of the future of the public school system. We partner with local NGO's and share our experiences in their channels, and participate in sensitization activities towards the public schools and social services.

#### **Output 2.2: Refugee adults can qualify for the simplified nationalization process with their improved language skills, employment history and stable housing situation**

As the key positive legal opportunity in Hungary, we ensure that most of our clients can participate in the simplified naturalization procedure that refugees have the right to request. Upon 3 years of obtaining refugee protection they are eligible to apply if their education, tax history, and legal address is as required. This process needs good counselling, Hungarian and citizenship classes, and general information on the employment and housing requirements. The target is a minimum of 15 citizenship application annually.

### **Outcome 3: Community development, sensitization**

Church constituencies and local populations have a better/deeper understanding of the situation of refugees and migrants, fear is reduced, and relationships are created (where they did not exist before)

or improved (where they existed). Target: at least 200 persons per year report positive change in their views of refugees.

**Output 3.1: Regular community events organized with refugees and local populations to create safe space for the mutual understanding of belonging together**

With the existing model of partnership with the Scottish Mission a minimum of yearly 5 community events will be held in the Scottish Mission, and 10 in other congregations. We can join events organized by other congregations, or initiate our own events to share and introduce our ministry, the colleagues, the clients: festivals, cooking sessions, prayer days, volunteer info days, movie sessions, youth events, summer camps, etc. If COVID restrictions will remain in place a fraction of these could be substituted with online sessions. After each event an article of a social media post will be published.

**Output 3.2: Volunteers and interns serve as multipliers for the sensitization program**

Volunteers are sought from congregations, universities, multinational companies, its mostly ideal to have a multi-generational team of students, professionals, senior citizens, from various backgrounds. Also long term and full times volunteers are part of the team via ecumenical or European programs. Via their engagement they have a rich source of credible experience that they will share with their own families and networks and will be very important multipliers of our message. The target is 20 volunteer per year, their stories and experiences will be published as well.

**Outcome 4: Staff capacities and wellbeing**

The staff and volunteers of the refugee ministry are capacitated and able to maintain a psychosocial balance despite shrinking space for this work.

**Output 4.1: Improved peer support integrated in the work of the refugee ministry**

In the years of 2018-2020 due to the de-escalation of the funding security caused by the loss of EU grants, and the increased pressure on NGOs, the changing landscape of refugee protection, the level of anxiety of the management increased. In the emergency operation staff meetings were cancelled and were only occasionally held. In 2021 a balanced operation can be started, and emphasis on strong team work and peer support will be a priority. Wellbeing and personal and professional development will be part of the regular team meetings (of both staff and volunteers), guided by a new colleague to be sent as a mission worker by the RCA.

**Output 4.2: Active participation in local conferences, education programs, network meetings in all levels of the team**

In the crisis years we opted out of several meetings and training opportunities and focused mainly only on the service provision. Work time will be allocated to enable the participation in events where staff and volunteers can reflect, learn and grow and share their experiences, eventually serving the overall goal of the project and making it well known and appreciated.

*4.3 BENEFICIARIES / TARGET GROUP(S) / PEOPLE OF OUR CONCERN*

The target group involved in the program:

Education program

- Direct
  - Refugee children, youth, adults (30 youth and 15 adults per semester, equal mix f/m)
  - volunteers and interns serving in the program (15 volunteers, 2 interns per semester, equal mix f/m)
- Indirect
  - Congregations or institutions that send volunteers to the program (3 per semester)
  - Schools of our students and our volunteers (5-5 per semester)

Community building, sensitization program

- Direct
  - Pastors that go through training (15 per year)
  - Ordained and lay leaders that attend Mission Office conferences with a focus on refugees (30 per year)
  - Church Elders who undergo training (15 per year)

- RCH congregations (5-8 visited each year)
- Refugees who are in exchange with congregations and are part of organizing activities (5-10 each year)
- Indirect
  - Wider society

The selection of our target groups happens as follows: our program is advertised within the refugee-migrant and NGO community and our local school partners. As a baseline for the education program we consider further support of the students of the 2020 fall semester, currently: 20. We are available for new applicants who arrived recently in the country either with international protection or with visa and are living in a vulnerable household (parents are unemployed, unqualified, don't speak Hungarian). We are opened to requests we receive via our partner schools, pointing out students who are already enrolled but struggle to keep up the speed of the class. For students who gain independence, the teacher's class hours are gradually minimized, and volunteer's hours are increased. New students can be enrolled this way.

Vulnerabilities: We put special emphasis on families with single parents - they would receive more intense care from social workers and more in kind contributions as needed (such as school supplies, foodbank contributions), on children with learning difficulties (they would receive more classes from our teachers, if the learning difficulty is caused by trauma they are referred to psychological aid via other NGOs).

#### *4.4 GEOGRAPHIC INTERVENTION AREA*

This project is centred in Budapest, Hungary to begin with as this is where the majority of refugees in Hungary settle and make a living. As Budapest is the only city with most of the integration support, diverse communities and strongest economy this is where the educational pillar of the program is centred in. Local partnerships will be sought in the neighbourhoods where clients live, mostly in the 7,8,9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> districts of Budapest.

The sensitization program will likewise begin in Budapest but spread as the training and conference events planned begin to occur. These opportunities will eventually take place all over Hungary, as well as with the HRC's congregations in the Carpathian basin.

The project will focus on Hungary, but due to the sensitization focus as it relates to trainings and conferences, this knowledge may spread to other Hungarian churches within the Carpathian basin. This would be an added value and something that could easily be done if the churches in the Carpathian basin are willing, but it is not the main focus of the project. Each year there are several mutual events where the networking with the congregations and pastors of the Carpathian basin can take place: joint pastors' trainings, missional conferences, Star Point Festival or Unity Day Festival.

Due to the changing landscapes of where refugees are located in Hungary, we can't foresee where camps will be placed; permanent camps have been closed by the government and temporary ones set up in their place, but these are in an almost constant state of flux as to which are open at any given time. Local congregations are organizing regular visits to rural facilities and provide counselling for asylum seekers in need. With the regular steering group meetings, we can exchange information about these locations and the work of local congregations.

#### *4.5 WORKING APPROACHES AND METHODS*

According to international, European and national law the government of Hungary is responsible for ensuring basic conditions for the wellbeing of people of international protection. This unfortunately is not the case. «Every human being is created in god's own likeness and thus every refugee every destitute poor is holding its inherent and inalienable dignity.»<sup>8</sup> The project works with the Human Rights Based Approach.

In all stages of the project cycle human rights mechanisms are integrated, refugees are participating in planning, implementing and monitoring. When drafting project proposals, in the analysis and planning phase the voice and ideas of refugees are represented via the refugee staff members. During the

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<sup>8</sup> HEKS-EPER annual report of 1947

implementation staff members and clientele can share their ideas, criticism and requests for improvement. In the M&E surveys and interviews are completed to incorporate the opinion of all parties involved: stakeholders, partners, clientele, staff, volunteers, interns. In our key advocacy activities (ex)refugees are key: our ex students, ex colleagues: Angila Canadey is member of our Brussels-based umbrella organizations ExCom, Sayed Parviz: European Commission Expert Group on Migration, Asylum.

Equality and non-discrimination is ensured both in volunteer, staff, and client selection procedures.

In the various activities the focus is on enhancing knowledge about rights among right holders and duty bearers. As the public schools fail to successfully enrol, equip and educate children for whom Hungarian is a foreign language, with this project, both the public school system and the students and their families themselves are empowered and strengthened. The educational activities aim for the ultimate protection and safety that can come with obtaining of the Hungarian citizenship. But even in the times up to this point people of international protection shall live as active citizens, through learning the native language, and furthering in their professional development, understanding the governance and navigating bureaucracy up to participating in municipal elections. With the closer cooperation with local governments also the local level political activity of clients can be better enhanced.

Further Principles:

Volunteer work is another major principle in the project, with better and more efficient volunteer training and management. The majority of people who will be helping in the education program will be volunteers, some of the volunteers are migrants and refugees. Through the partnership with the Christian Reformed Church in North America the RCH will host a mission worker Jeff Bouman who will serve to enhance the personal and professional development of our volunteers, interns and staff members.

In the education team the employed teacher staff members will be in charge of not only coordinating volunteers, but also training them for their work, equipping them with tools and background information, and assist them in helping their students reach their goals. Through the close cooperation with schools, the knowledge and experience gained about inclusion of children with migrant backgrounds can contribute to the improvement of the public school system as well.

It would be beneficial for this after-school tutoring program to have exchange with the Tanoda projects that are being done through the RCH in Roma communities. A cooperation and sharing of best practices in this area would be a real benefit. Study trips are another valuable component of the overall goal of sensitisation in Hungary. Through the funding set aside for these trips, volunteers and professionals participating in the project will have the opportunity to exchange ideas and best practices with others in the field, including partners at HEKS.

Through wider efforts for sensitization, various church branches will take the theme of refugee aid and make it their own. The Youth Office may use the theme in the youth festival that they coordinate, Mission Department would bring this into their continuing education for Pastors, and the Communications team will share information in both English and Hungarian about work done with refugees and how people can get more involved. These different ways of storytelling about refugees are much needed given the one-sided communication that is prevalent in public discourse. Through the use of existing connections and communication channels, the church will spread its sensitization campaign via the use of publication materials, training opportunities, as well as one-on-one experiences. The church will also contribute to advocacy in its local, national and international networks.

All of this work will be done in a way that is respectful to people from a diverse range of religious and cultural backgrounds. It is a humanitarian imperative that refugees are treated as persons in need, regardless of their ethnicity, religion, gender, or orientation. According to the RCH's November 2015 Statement of the General Convent on the European Migration Crisis, "Our church's inescapable task is to help people in need: those fleeing from direct threat to life and those coming simply in the hope of a better life. We must help those who are practicing Christianity and those of other faiths; those who have no qualifications and those who are graduates; those are simply travelling through our country and those would like to settle here permanently. We affirm this with the teaching of the Bible, according to which the primary direction of our Christian care and love is the circle of those whose care is entrusted to us: our closer and extended family, our smaller and larger communities, and our nation. We are reminded that we must guarantee the human dignity of refugees and migrants, as well as speedy and fair evaluation of their cases."

Project Proposal [949340; 2021-24]

## 4.6 CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

### **Gender**

Regarding the staff and beneficiary organizations, DO and Kalunba:

Gender sensitivity and female leadership are vital for the development of communities, including refugees in the city and the wider RCH church community. If looking to hire new professionals for the HEKS/EPER project, keeping a gender balance in the project will be important as well as the gender awareness and capacities of the staff. At the moment the team is balanced: 1m-1f in leadership, 1 f assistant, 1 m-1f teacher, 2m-1f social worker, 3 out of 8 colleagues are refugees.

Through various training and conference opportunities for the wider RCH, gender diversity at events will be encouraged as gender balance in both ordained and lay leadership is crucial to a well-represented church.

As much as child protection and gender balance is mainstreamed in the Kalunba and RCH framework of activities, it's not completely available on internal policy level. The project coordinator will co-draft with the DO's legal advisor the child protection and PSEAH mechanisms and policies both for Kalunba and the DO. A child protection and PSEAH training will be held in the Q1 of 2021 both for Kalunba and DO employees.

Regarding the clientele:

Through the education program, all children will be given the educational assistance that they require, keeping in mind that in most of their home countries, girls may have been at a disadvantage for receiving an education. We see the eagerness of girls to finally be able to participate in quality education (though we are experienced with the contrary as well when girls are considered aids of the mothers and are held back from studying, but through counselling and creative solutions we try to involve these girls as much possible). Also, we are aware of conflicting situations where girls with big aims for education and emancipation are pulled out of these opportunities when they come to the age of marriage. In such case we have made successful cases where girls upon marriage can return to education even while having their babies, we aim to create special support systems for them (currently 2 young mothers are enrolled in the education including their young boys). Language lessons are already tailored to the needs of the students, with women's lessons being in the morning, and including a babysitter for their children, and lessons for men and unaccompanied minors happening in the evening, when men are done at work and minors are done at school for the day. It's very important to focus on finding the best way to ensure good education for young and adult men as well. As they have a big pressure to generate income, studies come to a less priority, offering a timetable for classes that's well adjusted to their worktimes can ensure their better participation. The clients are people from a multitude of family backgrounds, and each have special needs unique to their situation.

We provide special attention to single parents with children, finding a suitable employment that matches the school hours of the children, finding accommodation that is in the proximity of the job and/or our center, providing extra child care when the parent is called in for overtime or takes a second job to pay the bills, bringing the kid home from kindergarten in special cases so that the parent can finish his/her shift harmlessly, watch the kid while sick so the parent doesn't have to drop out of work and risk their employment, usually offering several times a week help in bringing/taking the kid to/from school to home or to our center where we watch them till the parent arrives. In these accompanying and childcare services our volunteers are providing essential support. This way we can contribute to the job security and the overall safety of the family.

For stay at home moms we aim to maintain income generating activities such as our tailoring program where moms (and sometimes men too) can create gift items that Kalunba sells and distributes the income to the mothers. In some cases Kalunba hires mothers temporarily that their social security would be paid for, or that the job history would be kick started and finding a real Hungarian job would be more easy.

When working with families, it is important to educate both parents about responsibilities in the Hungarian education and child protection systems. It is also crucial to discuss things such as how to get financial support for their children and what the expectations are for nurses and teachers in Hungary. Beyond this, social workers educate both parents about the economic realities of life in Hungary and the importance of having both parents learn Hungarian and find employment, even if this is not something that may have been acceptable for them at home. Families are also educated about healthy nursing, eating, early childhood development, and the importance of movement therapy if  
Project Proposal [949340; 2021-24]

children or adults suffer from learning difficulties. Social workers also discuss with families about the mental health of all family members, especially those who have experienced trauma, and they stress the importance of talking to professionals – that taking medication is not enough, but should be accompanied by real psychosocial help.

### ***Resilience building***

In a crisis situation similar to the summer of 2015 when there will be a significant increase in the arrival of asylum seekers, the RCH will be prepared by making use of its numerous contacts and pool of experience in the field of humanitarian aid and refugee aid. The church's HRCA is ready to help and the RCH could also count on volunteers from local congregations and through other church-affiliated networks.

### ***Conflict sensitivity***

Possible conflicts for this project include changes in governmental policy towards refugees, conflict escalation between Hungarians and refugees, even more alienation of migrants in the pandemic as briefly introduced under the context analysis.

Due to the subject matter, this project is intimately linked with its context and is subject to the whims of the government, but the ownership of the church provides safety and political shield from possible attacks. There needs to be a very careful balancing that could prevent becoming a victim of political battles between government and opposition. Worsening political situation and changes in church leadership might affect the ownership of the church and the protection assured by it.

Putting an emphasis of creating stronger neighbourhoods, better local encounters, leads clearly to building better connections to the local municipalities. Partnerships with local municipalities are mostly formal only, as their resources are very limited also. To hire municipality owned space for the project enhances the relationships with the local government, on the other hand it's also a risk as these district's leaderships are under the opposition parties and can lead to tension with the government.

There is a special delicate situation between the refugee-migrant supporting NGOs, there are several divisions among these groups: organization existing prior to 2015 vs new actors established in and after 2015; "real" NGOs versus faith based groups; so called "government allied" organizations vs "liberal" organizations linked with the Open Society Foundation, organizations who were not able to recover from the loss of AMIF funds and organizations who still manage somehow. UNHCR is aware of the fragility of the sector and besides calling the organizations together approximately annually or biannually not much else is done to strengthen cooperation. The most severe risk from this dissonance is crossover funding and people falling between the gaps: some organizations prefer to take on clients who already have some integration achievement, which seen from Kalunba's perspective is disrespectful to Kalunba's work who aims to encourage people's self sustainability.

There is a delicate balancing that has to be considered while communicating the stories. On one hand we do want to contribute to changing the narrative and achieve better social inclusion for our target group but we have to be aware of the possible threats following our storytelling: in a size of a town as Budapest it's very easy to track down our clients, our partners, our own office locations, and the security of all our clients, partners and our own staff must not be endangered. As the focus of this project is so highly politicized there is an other significant danger of our work to be instrumentalized in a political attack of the opposition towards the government, this has to be avoided as well.

In the first quarter of the project a participatory conflict sensitivity assessment will be done with the involvement of the project team and some members of the steering group and HEKS/EPER (project coordinator, heads of departments within the RCH, social workers, teachers, pastors, key volunteers, approx. 8-15 people).

### ***Strengthening civil society***

The Law on the Transparency of Organizations Receiving Foreign Funds (Anti-NGO Law) was adopted on 13 June 2017 by the Hungarian Parliament, despite repeated domestic and international objections. The law is part of a series of measures that began in 2013 designed to discredit and silence the anyway weak civil society which is trying to hold the government to account to its obligations concerning anti-corruption, environmental protection, fundamental rights, democracy and the rule of law. Kalunba had its 3 year review in its mandate to host European volunteers in October

2020m in the review-interview the 2 officers informally shared that most of the NGOs they meet and work with are on the edge of closure due to the unbearable pressure and lack of funding.

Under such environment building trust and cooperation between civil society actors is extremely hard. Despite the fact that quite a few church related organizations are also listed as foreign funded organizations, the new regulations really meant to target the local affiliates of the international NGOs which makes the church hesitant to cooperate with them.<sup>9</sup>

While part of this divide is difficult to overcome, we can focus on the a part of the NGO landscape that is improvable through the activity of this project: We are partnering with migrant-owned and migrant-led organizations (2) and we seek to strengthen their operation by our partnership. More work time will be allocated for maintaining and improving local partnerships, attending events, learning opportunities for staff and representation of our work, overall leading to a strengthened civil society.

The political context, the alienation, the scapegoating, the shrinking space is a very damaging for the mental wellbeing of the staff as well. And on other level comes when instead of being able to rejoice in our successful inclusion cases, and new Hungarian citizens, we have to say goodbye to our clients who leave the country: the clients feel these tensions of politics and many clients took the chance of secondary movement and try to legalize their stay in Western Europe. This puts the clients in danger as obtaining residence or international protection with a valid Hungarian protection is not simple, they are forced to forge their identity or stay abroad illegally. Fear for the clients' safety and questioning the meaningfulness of our services is an extra layer of stress for staff and volunteers. By keeping our project operating, securing funding for our activities, enabling the structure of this project, Hungary has one more operating nonprofit, which in itself is a win. Now we see that funding and service for the clients are not enough to ensure sustainability, staff and volunteers need protection and support in their own wellbeing, and this project will put that as a priority too.

## **5 PROJECT / IMPLEMENTATION SET-UP**

### *5.1 COORDINATION OF THE PROJECT*

As the church's commitment for the refugee ministry has improved during the last project phase this project will be implemented through the RCH under the Diaconal Office's Unit for Refugee Integration. The Head of the Unit is Ms. Dora Kanizsai. The Local Implementing Partner is St. Columba's Scottish Mission, led by Minister Aaron Stevens. Kalunba Social Services Nonprofit Ltd, led by CEO Balázs Acsai will be a local partner offering further services to the refugee community through the Barakfarm project. (See Enclosure 4a: Organizational Chart for more information).

The structure of the RCH's Refugee Ministry has been reorganized within the church in 2016. Instead of working under the Reformed Mission Center, as it used to, the Refugee Ministry is now organized under the umbrella of the church's Diaconal Office. With its constantly developing methodology, the Diaconal Office of the Reformed Church in Hungary aims to support the service of Reformed diaconal institutions, in order to remain up-to-date on the most recent changes in managerial and financial environments. The Diaconal Office is a specific institution with its own legal personality, finances (budget), organizational and operational rules (OOR), and independent bank account and tax. The Diaconal Office has different working fields and the Refugee Ministry was incorporated into its structure as a new unit at the start of the previous project phase. The successful implementation of the project between 2017-2020 brings now the opportunity to continue this project under the implementation of the Diaconal Office with the local partnership of the Scottish Mission and Kalunba. According to the legally binding Agreement signed by the Diaconal Office and Kalunba on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Kalunba is the local implementing partner in refugee integration. In this project period however - as a sign of growing ownership of the church - the Diaconal Office will be in charge of the total budget and will transfer the instalments for Kalunba's activities biannually. The emphasis on the activities done via Kalunba may vary over the years of the project implementation, it shall be always projected and reported in the biannual reporting towards HEKS/EPER and in the YPO. The project

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<sup>9</sup>[https://civil.info.hu/kezdolap/civiltudastar/kulfoldrol\\_tamogatott\\_civil\\_szervezetek/index.html?TARANTULA\\_SESSID=CSTInRPVYAqcVJn9e51xgdv1](https://civil.info.hu/kezdolap/civiltudastar/kulfoldrol_tamogatott_civil_szervezetek/index.html?TARANTULA_SESSID=CSTInRPVYAqcVJn9e51xgdv1)

team will be hired via the DO ensuring also better integration in the church structures and better mutual exchange among staff. The team: coordinator and assistant, full time teacher, part time teacher, Hungarian teacher, social worker translator. Not included in the budget, but essential part of the team are the volunteers, interns and the RCA mission worker overseeing their personal development and wellbeing, Jeff Bouman.

The Unit for Refugee Integration is working closely together with the Scottish Mission (St. Columba's Church), the English Speaking Congregation of RCH, as the Local Partner. The Scottish Mission provides space and community for the work of the Unit for Refugee Integration and serves as a model partnership to other congregations. This cooperation is set in a separate Partnership agreement between both.

The RCH Ecumenical Office and the Communications staff will together assist in providing key communications assistance through both the English and Hungarian RCH websites, helping to disseminate information through various channels in order to provide an alternative voice about refugees into the public sphere.

Others involved in wider sensitization work include the RCH Youth Department, the Institute for the Continuing Education of Pastors, RCA, the Church and Society Institute of the Reformed University, and Seminaries.

## 5.2 PARTNERSHIP

- **HEKS/EPER** will gain a more developed partnership with an aid NGO on the ground working with refugees that will lead to an increased dialogue about best practices in the field. HEKS/EPER provides international support, expert guidance through the use of speakers and trainers that may be used, and a sense of accompaniment to the RCH.
- **The RCH** has the Unit for Refugee Integration within the Diaconial Office, so that the vital outreach to refugees can continue with and increased sense of support from international partners. The RCH provides a credible backing of the project, vast communication opportunities, as well as a wide network of aid.
- **St. Columba's Church of Scotland in Budapest** is the heart and soul of the refugee ministry within the RCH, it's the congregation where the first volunteers and mission workers started to organize the aiding of refugees in 2006 and it's the congregation where many of the volunteers and staff of the ministry come to worship at, and the place where not only day to day meetings and classes can be held at, but where the big celebrations can be organized at festivities such a school graduation, Christmas or Eid.
- **Kalunba Social Services Ltd** served as implementing partner between 2017-2020, but due to the strengthened church commitment and the shrinking space of NGOs the implementation will now not be the responsibility of Kalunba anymore. Kalunba in 2019 launched a long planned social farm, Barakfarm, to create sustainability of funding and long-term quality employment for refugees. Kalunba will be a key partner in the areas of employment and community organizing, sensitization of the local communities.
- **International Church Partners** will contribute to the refugee ministry with further funds that will help to offer a complexity of services to the target group and ensure the coalition around the refugee ministry of the RCH. There will be a more transparent regular communication towards the partnership as a whole not only bilaterally.
- **Volunteer sending partners, university partnerships:** As volunteers and interns will bring a significant added value with their service hours, and also in sharing the narrative and bringing change into the social discourse we must list the partners where these young helpers will come from: Ecumenical Diaconal Year of the Synod Office Youth Department yearly 1-2 full time volunteers through Erasmus+, Calvin University yearly 2-3 part time interns in the fall semesters, Budapest Semester for Mathematic Education yearly 2-3 part time volunteers in the fall semester, George Mason University yearly 2-3 part time interns in the spring semester, AIESEC long and short term volunteers, Service Learning program of the Karoli University of the RCH 4-5 part time students throughout the year, 50 hour volunteering program of various high schools in Budapest. During the COVID19 era these activities are either suspended or they take place in an online form; we intend to restart off-line as soon as possible.
- **Local structures:** in order to better use the shrinking funding sources, and also to give more visibility about this work to the state agencies we intend to deconstruct our parallel services

and rely more on the not so well functioning state services. We will visit the local family support services and job centers with our clients regularly, even if seemingly they cannot provide enough meaningful services, but they have to be aware of the refugees and migrants in their districts, and through benefiting of our accompanying social workers they might be able to offer valuable case work support.

- **Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe** is a Brussels-based umbrella organization where both RCH and Kalunba are members. In the current term Dora Kanizsai served as ExCom member and vice-moderator, and the GA in Oct 2020 voted on the new ExCom where Angela Canadey (current project assistant who came to Hungary as refugee, was with her a beneficiary of our programs and is now a BA graduate of international relations and a Hungarian citizen) is representing the RCH.
- The European Commission's new body, the Expert Group on the view of migrants in the field of migration, asylum and integration has selected our former student, former colleague as one of its members, Sayed Parviz.

The RCH is involved in many other national, and European level networks in regard to their refugee aid work: The World Communion of Reformed Churches (including a special Task Force on migration), Eurodiaconia. On a local level, Dora Kanizsai was a regular participant in roundtable meetings with the Ministry of Education, the Municipality of Budapest, and the Office of Immigration and Nationality – but these roundtable discussions have ceased around 2014-2015, now UNHCR takes on the responsibility to regularly call together local and national stakeholders for exchange and information sharing, where the partnership of this project is actively represented.

## 6 RISK ANALYSIS

Main risks identified	Probability of occurrence	Assumed impact	Scenarios ( <i>best, medium, worst</i> ) and mitigation measures
Due to restrictive government policies there will be no more refugee recognition, no new refugees admitted	highly likely	medium	Best scenario: small admission rate remains → Measures: well-balanced ratio among refugee and migrant clients
			Worst scenario: no more international protection → Measures: we will continue to serve the previously admitted and still needy clients, and reach out more to the migrant communities who are in need.
Operation of Kalunba becomes impossible (1 change in legislation, 2. loss of church partnership, 3. loss of international ecumenical partnership, 4. Barakfarm fails its operation)	likely	medium	Best scenario: government reopens funding opportunities for NGOs, partnership is intact, Barakfarm will generate sufficient income for Kalunba's operation → Measures: good project management, continued advocacy on behalf of the church
			Medium scenario: international church partners provide core funding to continue Kalunba's operations, Measures: transparent and reliable reporting to partners
			Worst scenario: Kalunba will cease to exist → Measures: DO and partners continue the implementation of the project.
Media attack against Kalunba as implementing partner	less likely	medium	Best scenario: strengthened ownership of the church and better cooperation among partners, additionally gained new allies Worst scenario: reputational loss, political damage, withdrawal of funds
Criminalization of clients due to missing integration services	likely	medium	Best scenario: the project can sustain the clients dignified lives → Measures: good partnership, new partners gained, new funds gained, good and transparent project implementation
			Worst scenario: increasing criminalization rate → Measures: reputational loss, political damage, withdrawal of funds, worsening local neighborhood dynamics,

## 7 OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities	Capitalization strategies
<p>Loss of the EU funds forces to reinvent the work, policy changes force to adapt the mission statement and services, shrinking space and all the above pushes towards strengthened and extended partnerships.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. instead of the rented community center we rely on the municipality and church to provide office space</li> <li>2. more community events will be held at local congregations not only to use their space but to strengthen local alliances, multiply results, spread and change the narrative</li> <li>3. more work time will be invested into participation at partner's events to strengthen partnership and seek larger support</li> <li>4. Instead of running a housing program we will have a minimal budget for emergency financial aid, will invest more into partnering with job search agencies, local family support centers, foodbank and social guidance. Instead of taking care of living costs we focus on equipping refugees to self-financing (there is also only a very minimal amount of new clientele).</li> </ol>

## 8 EXIT / PERSPECTIVES FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE PROJECT

During the period of the project, the RCH learns to come together for refugee work, thus creating greater stability in the future of the work in terms of commitment as well as willingness to co-finance. Co-financing will also come through the successful implementation of the Barakfarm social venture, that will be ready to co-finance Kalunba's activities, upon the repayment of the initial kick-starting loans by 2024 as it is in its mission statement. Via the strengthened local partnership, new funding sources will appear and in-kind contributions will remain, such as the community center offered by the municipality. An increased volunteer and donation base would also aid in the continuation of the work. The RCH also takes ownership of the work and makes a more prominent financial show of support for refugee work and increases the dedicated funding of the programs. Professional cooperation with NGO's and other organizations is strengthened and helps keep the work going as well. All these efforts enable the refugee work to go on despite the cutting of national funding sources, and have the potential to increase a local funding base that is less affected by the political climate. The inclusion work for refugees and migrants itself will remain an important field of work for the church also in the coming years.

## 9 COMMENTS ON THE ENCLOSED BUDGET

A four year budget is attached, keeping in mind that part of the planning process for each year will be to adjust the budget matching the current context as needed. Each year partners will engage in updating or adjusting the budget according to the detailed plan for the coming year.

The total project budget is 330 936 CHF, the first year's budget is 82 659 CHF.

The HEKS/EPER funded activities will form the core project of the refugee ministry but for further needs funding will be sought from the international ecumenical partners. And as a sign of ownership the RCH will provide contribution as well.

Ecumenical partners: a 4 year request will be submitted in November 2020 to German ecumenical partners requesting 50 000 Euros for the purpose of emergency needs of clients in crisis: home rental fee reserve, utilities for rented homes, health care services. It's impossible to judge the need for housing support for the next 4 years, as the economy, the COVID-19 situation and the Hungarian asylum regulations are changing constantly. But as the housing program was one of our key and well known and esteemed activity over the past 10 years we find it important to keep a minimal reserve of funding available to be spent as needed.

In kind contribution will be received in the form of a rental space for the community center based on the municipality and RCH's partnership. Approximate costs: 680 EUR/month, 32 600 EUR for the total project time.

In kind contribution from the DO to use an office space for administration and documents storage, occasional meeting room space, accounting, payroll services 410 EUR/month, 19 700 EUR for the total project time.

Congregations will contribute to the community programs with free use of their space and contributions for the event's expenses with the collects. Approximate calculation: 82 EUR / occasion, 14 events per year, 4 500 EUR for project time.

The Ecumenical office will contribute to the international travel costs of the refugee ministry's staff members, approximately: 550 EUR/ year, 22 000 EUR in total.

Expected total Hungarian contribution: 78 800 EUR

Expected total international Ecumenical contribution: 50 000 Euros.

Total international and local contribution planned min. 128 871 CHF for the 4 year period. The amount is considered feasible based on past year's experiences and as the ongoing negotiations with German partner churches.

## **10 MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

The project coordinator is responsible for project monitoring, assisted by the project assistant. He/she will collect and compile monitoring data from of the different project components from Kalunba, St. Columba's Scottish Mission and eventually additional congregations/church units and will coordinate the overall reporting to HEKS/EPER.

The M&E system of the project will be completed by Q2 2021 by the Unit for Refugee Integration of the Diaconal Office with the support of HEKS/EPER and in cooperation with key staff, further elaborating the indicator, collecting baseline data and defining targets where needed.

An external evaluation is planned at the end of the project phase. The ToR will be elaborated by HEKS/EPER in close cooperation with the project leadership and the ecumenical office....

## **11 FINANCIAL CONTROL**

Financial control comes from the Head of the Unit for Refugee Integration at the RCH Diaconal Office and they are also in charge of financial reports. This Unit Head is responsible to the Director of the Diaconal Office. The Diaconal Office has its own accounting staff and they take the lead on financial reporting. The current audit partner is KPMG.

The RCH Diaconal Office is in charge of the HEKS/EPERproject and funding towards Kalunba will be transferred from there on a biannual basis, according to the YPO and next installments will be released upon complete reports.

As the practice in the EU funded projects, each cost invoice will be stamped with the project code, and will be allocated under a separate accounting number. The financial documents will be audited and will prove that double funding is not occurring.

## **12 ANNEXES**

Annex 1: Budget

Annex 2: Logframe of the project

Annex 3: Organisational chart

## Annex 2: Logframe of the project

	Project theory of change / intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators (incl. HEKS/EPER Key Indicators)	Sources / means of verification	Assumptions and Risks
<b>Expected impact / final goal:</b>	<b>Refugees and migrants are better included in Hungarian Society thanks to strengthened church commitment</b>			...
<b>outcome 1: Structure</b>	<b>The RCH maintains ownership of the Refugee Ministry in order to reaffirm its Statement of the General Convent and the Refugee Strategy, and implement its work into the church's wider congregational life</b>	The Church advocates for humane and sustainable migration and asylum policies qualitative targets - baseline	Annual review by coordinator, steering group	...
<b>output 1.1:</b>	<b>Maintaining the structure of local partnership among involved church partners</b>	# of meetings and joint events 2019 baseline: 5 meetings and 2 joint events target 2021: 10 meetings	Memos, agendas, semi-annual report	
<b>Activities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regular steering group meetings (quarterly) with the Ecumenical Office, Mission Department, Diaconial Office, Kalunba, Scottish Mission.</li> <li>- Regular operational meetings with the Ecumenical Office, DO team, Kalunba, Scottish Mission (needs based frequency)</li> <li>- Conflict sensitivity assessment in the Q1 2021 with steering group members and project team</li> <li>- co-designing and co-drafting the gender and child protection policies of the DO and Kalunba.</li> </ul>				
<b>output 1.2</b>	<b>Maintain partnership with the Ecumenical international partners</b>	No. of visits of ecumenical partners (no. of organisations, no. of persons) Baseline: 5 visits (2019) Target: 10 visits (2021)  European events participated in (name of network and relevant topics of the meetings) Baseline: 8 meetings (2019) Target: 15 meetings (2021)	Memos, agendas  Memos, agendas	...

<p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Regular outward communication about changes, context, progress</li> <li>-Participation in European events</li> <li>-Hosting ecumenical partners for visits</li> <li>- Organize a (online) conference/roundtable of ecumenical partners to present this project as a core project and see how others can contribute to this 4 year perspective with smaller grants.</li> <li>-Organizing a study visit to the Swiss congregational partners and to HEKS.</li> </ul>				
<b>output 1.3:</b>	<b>The responsibility for social inclusion of migrants and refugees becomes a regular topic in church conferences, pastors training events, congregational events</b>	Number of events invited to as participant or speaker, no. of participants (lay and church, m/f) Baseline: 2 (2019) Target: 5 (2021)  No. of published articles Baseline 5 (2019) Target: 20 (2021)	Memos, agendas, attendance sheets, published articles	
<p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Participation in conferences and meetings organized by various church departments, to contribute to the discussion</li> <li>-Participate as speaker in church organized conferences</li> <li>-Give interviews and contributions to articles published by the church</li> <li>-Contribute regular updates for the websites of the Diaconal office and of the RCH main website</li> </ul>				
<b>outcome 2: Education/ Inclusion</b>	<b>Refugees and migrants have the necessary practical knowledge to deal with every day situations, education, jobs and housing</b>	Changes in the ability to lead a meaningful life in Hungary reported by adults and children (m/f) after participating in integrative programs  Baseline will be evaluated retrospective Target: 80% of interviewees report positive change. 20 interviews annually	Most significant change interviews conducted annually at school end (June)	...

<b>output 2.1.:</b>	<b>Refugee and migrant children are better able to integrate into schools</b>	Number of children in the program (m/f) Baseline: 35 (2019) Target: 40 (2021)  Number of volunteers in the program (m/f) Baseline 10 (2019) Target: 20 (2021)  Number of home visits, if required  Parent meetings min. 2/year  Semester end summary on each child's performance in the program  GPA % change in children's school performance	Semester end school reports and memos, published stories and articles  Volunteer contracts  Cooperation agreements with student/parent  Attendance sheets	
<b>Activities:</b> -Offer afterschool classes in Hungarian and various subject through the efficient balance of staff and volunteers -Parent meetings and home visits with social workers and translators -Search and distribute donations, or if needed buy and distribute school supplies and food items for most needy children				
<b>output 2.2:</b>	<b>Refugee adults can qualify for the simplified nationalization process with their improved language skills, employment history and stable housing situation</b>	Number of submitted citizenship requests Target: 15 annually  Number of adults (m/f) in Hungarian lessons Target: min 10 each month  Number of adults (m/f) in citizenship lessons Target: 10 per year  Number of adults (m/f) in employment coaching Target: 10 each month	Attendance sheets  Database of employment and citizenship counselling.	
<b>Activities:</b> -Hungarian and citizenship classes -case management and psycho-social counseling -employment support				

<b>outcome 3: Community development</b>	<b>Church constituencies and local populations have a better/deeper understanding of the situation of refugees and migrants, fear is reduced, and relationships are created (where they did not exist before) or improved (where they existed)</b>	Change of mindset experienced by volunteers and event participants through their involvement, change they perceive in their own communities  Target: at least 200 ppl per year report change in their views of refugees	Surveys	
<b>Output 3.1</b>	<b>Regular community events organized with refugees and local populations to create safe space for the mutual understanding of belonging together.</b>	Number of events organized Baseline: 4 per year, target: 15 per year  Number of participants (balanced representation of: m/f, lay/church, local/migrant background)  Number of published stories and articles 15	Memos, published articles, if possible attendance sheets	
<b>Output 3.2</b>	<b>Volunteers and interns serve as multipliers for the sensitization program</b>	Number of volunteers, interns Baseline 10 (2019) Target: 20 (2021)  (balanced representation of: m/f, lay/church, local/migrant background)	published stories, volunteer contracts and reports	
<b>Activities</b> regular community events organized in congregations and other facilities bringing together locals and refugees				
<b>Outcome 4: Staff capacities and Wellbeing</b>	<b>The staff and volunteers of the refugee ministry are able to maintain a psychosocial balance despite shrinking space for this work</b>	Improved wellbeing reported by staff and volunteers	Survey	
<b>output 4.1:</b>	<b>Improved peer support integrated in the work of the refugee ministry</b>	Regular monthly meetings with staff, volunteers and interns one on one and in groups	Bi-annual memo by responsible RCA mission worker	
<b>output 4.2:</b>	<b>Active participation in local conferences, education programs, network meetings in all levels of the team</b>	All level participation in local training opportunities	Memos, agendas, publications	

**Activities**

- regular group supervision aiming to create increased peer support
- one on one personal reflection on personal and professional development
- team building events and exercises
- participation on external trainings and conferences to ensure better professional development.

**Annex 3: Organizational chart**

