Prior to the conflict, the Government of Hungary reduced refugee and asylum seeker infrastructures. Now, the Government of Hungary has amended and modified laws related to asylum policing to respond to protection needs and other livelihood related needs of persons fleeing from the conflict in Ukraine entering, transiting, and residing in Hungary. The new regulations mean that the applications of temporary refugee status are processed quicker, and it has been made easier for companies in Hungary to hire newly arrived refugees. One concern is that laws could revert and make refugee and asylum status challenging in future.

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I’ve just returned from Ukraine and Hungary where, with DEC funds, we’ve been responding rapidly through our existing network of local partners. They include Crown Agents who have provided baby incubators to a hospital in western Ukraine.

“We’re helping integrate refugees by supporting them with group cash so they can decide for themselves what they most need, like buying nappies, paying rent for the lodgings in host communities - or even pet food as many have fled with their animals as they couldn’t bear to leave without them.

“We’re also providing them with hot meals, temporary rest in community centres, safe spaces for children to receive trauma care, and information on their rights when they arrive in the host countries.”

Vanessa Maynard, Programmes and Operations Officer for Christian Aid