

Country Operation Plan 2003

Slovak Republic

Last revision date: 28 November 2002

Part I: Executive Committee Summary

a/ Context and Beneficiary Population

The Slovak Republic succeeded to the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol on 1 January 1993 as a result of the dissolution of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic. The Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior was established later in 1993, as the main Government department responsible for refugee issues. The Migration Office implements the RSD procedure at first instance, runs the reception centres for asylum-seekers and manages a refugee integration centre in Zvolen in Central Slovakia. In January 1996, Law No. 283/1995 on Refugees entered into force, replacing Law No. 498/1990 on Refugees inherited from the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic. An amendment of Law 283/1995 on Refugees (Law No. 309/2000) has been adopted and entered into force on 1 November 2000. A new Refugee Law, fully harmonized with EU standards, is planned to be adopted by the end of 2002. A new Aliens Law has been adopted in the Parliament in December 2001 and came into force as of 1 April 2002.

A national asylum system has been established, which includes: a refugee status determination (RSD) procedure, a Government-funded infrastructure for the reception of refugees and asylum-seekers, a refugee integration programme jointly funded by UNHCR and the Government, and a UNHCR-funded network of four NGOs providing assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers across the country. The Slovak Republic is now developing its asylum system in response to increasing numbers of asylum-seekers and in order to ensure full implementation of its international obligations and full harmonization with the European Union (EU) *acquis* on asylum in preparation for membership of the EU. According to the Accession Negotiation Position of the Slovak Republic in Chapter 24 – Cooperation in Justice and Home Affairs, in order to harmonize the national legislation and practice with EU *acquis*, Slovakia should establish: a COI Documentation Center (in 2001), to adopt a new Refugee Law (between 2002 and 2003) which establishes an independent second instance judicial body.

The Minister of Interior, as the asylum appeals authority, has never reversed a Migration Office first instance decision to reject the refugee status and it has only cancelled few decisions and returned the cases for re-examination. The new Asylum Law, which will come into force as of 1 January 2003, will shift the appeal from the Minister of Interior to an independent court. Currently, the Asylum Law draft is pending at the governmental level and will then pass to the Parliament together with needed amendments of the Civil Procedural Code.

The number of applications in 2001 (8,151) raised considerably (523%) compared with the previous year (1556). The reason has been mainly the change in the legislation with the withdrawal of the rule of 24 hours time limit from the entry into the country for presenting an application for refugee status. The number of recognized refugees is very small (18), but if considered with the number of cases decided (130) the percentage of acceptance is quite relevant. The main problem that affects all the system is the great number of cases terminated before the first instance decision (90 days) due to the departure towards Western European countries of the applicants (5,247 in 2001).

According to statistics provided by the authorities 90% of applicants have entered Slovakia from Hungary while 10% from Ukraine. Readmission agreements are in place with Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary and several other European countries. Last year 2011 people were readmitted from Slovakia while the number of those

readmitted to Slovakia amounted to 3,380. In 2001 15,518 people were caught as illegal migrants trying to cross borders irregularly.

Security situation

The following security incidents were monitored by UNHCR in 2001 and 2002.

In July 2001, at UNHCR premises, one Iraqi and one Palestinian while briefed on the procedure for applying to refugee status refused to follow the procedure (to file a claim at the Aliens Police station) started to misbehave and threat staff in the office, then attacked police officers which were called to escort them to the police center in order to file the application. One police officer was wounded and the two were detained and charges against them were filed. After 8 months of detention the Iraqi was then expelled from the country. As a result of this incident a video monitoring system will be installed in the UNHCR premises and the visitors reception system has been revised.

In March 2002, at the Ukrainian-Slovak border two border guards were shot dead and one injured in an exchange of fire with smugglers. This serious incident widely publicized by the media, may have a negative impact on the perception of asylum seekers which enter the country using illegal channels. A tightening of the border control has been implemented since then.

In March at a reception center near the border with the Czech Republic a commando of 30 special policemen entered and harassed for two hours all inmates with the alleged aim to find Al Qaeda terrorists who had allegedly been reported registering for refugee status. No arrests were made, but this surprised action left bad psychological signs to the asylum seekers population. UNHCR expressed its deep concern to the Minister of Interior for the modalities and the conduct of the police forces in this action (for this issue see Part III, Country/Management Issues, Security of refugee areas and camps).

UNHCR's role – protection, assistance, monitoring and coordination

The national asylum system is undergoing a process of great change and expansion, and this in turn means that UNHCR, the Migration Office and NGO partners, will have to coordinate their action and plan future actions together throughout 2002 in order to ensure the most effective use of resources to meet the needs in 2003. As an example of this requirement is the declared intention of the Migration Office to open a reception centre in Eastern Slovakia at the end of 2002. This would result in an increased workload for local Migration Office staff and will require the intervention of legal and social NGOs for counselling. Training of new staff will also be needed.

In 2003, UNHCR will continue supporting its NGO partners in establishing liaisons with other donors, including the Government which is ultimately in the best position to provide long-term funding to NGOs whose flexibility can allow to carry on activities in a more timely and efficient fashion than state entities. To reach this stage, however, it is necessary to win still existing prejudices and the resistance of governmental structures to hand over responsibility to NGOs and the civil society. Ultimately, UNHCR aims to phase down its own funding of NGOs as other stable sources of funding can begin to replace the Office's contribution. Many donors are less flexible than UNHCR regarding the project costs which they can fund (e.g. many donors can not pay salaries) and therefore UNHCR, other donors and NGOs, need to plan together very closely to maximize the use of scarce resources, each organization contributing in the areas in which it is able.

As the asylum system develops and expands and as the caseload subsequently increases, gaps are being identified which are not being addressed by the Government adequately enough, due to the lack of finances that are required in order to solve these issues. UNHCR sees as important to be able to offer assistance

to the local Government and help address some of the core gaps and set up a good practice taking into account UNHCR protection policy priorities and gender/age perspective approach to the beneficiaries.

Since the vast majority of the asylum seekers has abandoned the asylum procedure UNHCR sees an urgent need to develop a strategy where the NGOs will enter into contact with the asylum seekers as soon as they are presenting their application to the police authorities. The immediate attention of the NGO staff to the situation of the asylum seekers in the police stations at the reception and then the accommodation centers will try to give a proper idea of the perspective of asylum in Slovakia. This effort will also stimulate a greater cooperation among all actors involved in the refugee programme (social workers, guards, medical and administrative staff of the Migration Office at the centers and decision makers at the central office from the side of the authorities, legal and social counsellors with interpreters from the side of the NGOs).

A weekly presence of the NGOs (legal and social) in the reception centres with regular contacts and provision of information to the asylum seekers (information on the RSD procedure, on the regime of the reception centres, activities organized by the NGOs, general information on the social system of the country, and integration prospects) has been started in 2002 and some improvements have already been reported by the authorities.

As per 2003, UNHCR will move away from funding current costs of the Migration Office and it will concentrate on "start-up" costs, e.g. helping the establishment of a monitoring system of data on separated children entering the territory of the Slovak Republic; in co-operation with an NGO to establish a system of guardianship for separated children according to the SCEP Statement of Good Practice; training the increasing number of Migration Office and NGO staff working in the reception centres and help establishing a functioning registration system of all asylum seekers and granting an effective reception system. The Migration Office tests randomly asylum seekers on HIV. UNHCR will actively monitor, report on HIV related issues among asylum seekers awaiting RSD procedure. UNHCR will further develop HIV/AIDS protection training and awareness programmes for UNHCR's partners, which will further on provide training to asylum seekers or recognized refugees and will promote the UNHCR/UNAIDS 1996 international guidelines on Human Rights and HIV/AIDS with the government.

In order to plan effectively for the future, UNHCR also sees a need to take stock of what has been achieved so far and therefore has, for example, been conducting a preliminary internal review of the measures it has taken to support the Government integration policy. There is a need to review and evaluate the integration process according to the Government policy drafted in 1996 and initiate activities that would lead to an updating of the policy by the Government in co-operation with the actors involved in the national asylum system. Refugee integration is a complex subject, which has to be looked at in the light not only of the general socio-economic situation in the Slovak Republic and the effectiveness of measures taken by the Slovak authorities, UNHCR and NGOs to support integration, but also, for example, in light of the fact that many refugees and asylum-seekers aim in one way or another ultimately to transit the Slovak Republic and move on to the Western countries.

Overview of each beneficiary population

In 2003 the country programme will assist directly and/or indirectly an estimated caseload of 15,000 asylum-seekers, 400 recognized refugees and 8 mandate refugees. The programme will study the *de facto* and *de jure* the situation of the 238 stateless persons who were residing legally in the Slovak Republic as of January 1,

2001, with a view to ensuring the full enjoyment of their rights under the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons.

Programme protection and assistance activities foreseen in 2003 are as follows:

Themes #1 and #2 will be jointly supported by one project, 03/AB/SVK/LS/400, with a budget in local currency equivalent to 392,064.13 US dollars. Part II of this Country Operations Plan describes in detail both the project resources and the non-project staff resources allocated to each objective in 2003.

Protection and Assistance Programme for Theme #1: Strengthening Asylum

The UNHCR programme will concentrate on the following activities in 2003: 1) Further lobbying for changes to asylum-related legislation and providing technical advice and assistance with drafting legislation so that at a minimum changes will incorporate UNHCR and EU accepted minimum standards (with UNHCR standards prevailing when UNHCR and EU standards contradict each other) but ideally will incorporate European best practice; 2) Providing asylum-seekers and recognized refugees with free legal advice and assistance with the RSD procedure and with claiming their rights under the 1951 Convention and other international human rights instruments; 3) Monitoring all stages of the RSD procedure with focus on the first instance procedure in order to verify compliance with international standards and as a basis for making informed recommendations for improvements in the procedure; 4) Training of second instance judges, who will be responsible for dealing with refugee cases as of 1 January 2003; 5) Improving access to country of origin information by the RSD authorities and NGOs; 6) Providing social counselling to asylum-seekers and addressing their free time while awaiting decision on their asylum claims with approach based on gender and age sensitivity; 7) Ensuring a supportive environment for asylum-seekers in reception centres and neighbouring communities; 8) Supporting the establishment of a new reception centre in Eastern Slovakia; 9) Supporting establishing of a system of registration of asylum seekers; 10) Developing HIV/AIDS protection training for UNHCR partners and monitor and report any HIV protection related issues 11) Supporting the Government integration programme by providing counselling and social and material assistance to recognized refugees to help them achieve self sufficiency; 12) Promoting the UNHCR/UNAIDS 1996 International guidelines on HR and HIV/AIDS with the government; 13) Promoting support by local communities for refugee integration; 14) Supporting refugees to obtain professional qualifications through university studies; 15) Developing the professional skills of the key actors in the asylum system; 16) Supporting and assisting in the national system the needs of separated children in line with the SCEP Statement of Good Practice (SGP); 17) Supporting and advising in establishment of a functioning system of guardianship for separated children and finding durable solutions for them in light of the SCEP SGP 18) Providing support to the teaching of asylum and human rights curricula at the Police Academy and Law Faculties including the support for the establishment and functioning of Refugee Law Legal Clinics and Social Clinics, 19) Helping NGOs to diversify their funding base and to develop their role in the asylum system; 20) Promoting a positive public image of UNHCR in the Slovak Republic; 21) Increasing the understanding of the general public of the difference between refugees and economic migrants; 22) Promoting receptiveness of the public towards the needs of refugees and asylum-seekers.

Protection and Assistance Programme for Theme #2: Partnership - The UNHCR programme will concentrate on the following activities in 2003: 1) Lobbying the Government for the Slovak Republic to continue making annual voluntary

contributions to UNHCR; 2) Supporting the activities of the Government in applying for full membership of the Slovak Republic in ExCom;

Core issues to be addressed by the UNHCR programme

- 1) There have been significant improvements in access to the RSD procedure since 1999 but access still needs to be monitored
- 2) There are currently two procedures in the national law which determine the need for international protection: a) the RSD procedure under the Refugee Law which provides for the grant of refugee status under the 1951 Convention or for humanitarian reasons, and b) the deportation procedure to which rejected asylum-seekers may have recourse under the Aliens Law and according to the new Aliens Law may be granted a tolerated stay - legal status for rights for persons protected against refoulement; persons not fulfilling the inclusion criteria of the 1951 Convention refugee definition but who are in need of a complementary protection because, for example, they are victims of civil war or are protected against expulsion by other international human rights instruments such as the European Convention on Human Rights are, in general, not granted refugee status for humanitarian reasons.
- 3) Decisions on refugee status are often still insufficiently motivated in law and in fact; as far as UNHCR is aware, a rejection of refugee status at first instance has never been reversed in the appeal. This situation will hopefully be changed after independent courts will act as appeal bodies competent to review first instance decisions in law, procedure and in facts.
- 4) As is the case with administrative proceedings in general, the State does not fund free legal aid for the RSD procedure and, given the increasing numbers of asylum-seekers, NGOs lack the resources to provide legal advice and assistance which meets the twin demands of quality and quantity.
- 5) The RSD authorities and NGOs will have gradually improved access to country of origin information and international refugee jurisprudence by the opening of a COI Documentation and Research Unit in the Migration Office. It is expected that this center will be fully operational in 2003/2004. UNHCR's support will be focused on the phase of building up the COI Documentation and Research Unit and in assisting to obtain a quality COI from other sources, such as ACCORD.
- 6) The skills of key actors in the national asylum system should continue to be developed in both the legal and social spheres, with special focus paid to the UNHCR policy priorities and stressing and disseminating gender/age perspective approach.
- 7) Expansion of the asylum system in Western and Eastern Slovakia should ensure that NGO disposes of sufficient staffing capacity to meet the needs of asylum-seekers for legal and social advice and assistance.
- 8) Adult asylum-seekers are not allowed to work and need more activities in which they can involve themselves while waiting for a decision. This is necessary to prevent apathy and depression and to facilitate their integration. Since a large majority of asylum seekers abandon the procedure, the social workers will concentrate their activities to present clear and comprehensive information to the asylum seekers to enable them to make a careful and thoughtful decision whether to leave the country or to settle in. A gender/age perspective in dealing with the asylum seekers should be adopted by the refugee social workers and the Migration Office.
- 9) Asylum seekers are randomly tested on HIV during the quarantine, refugee social workers and GO partners are not fully aware of the UNHCR/UNAIDS 1996 international guidance on Human Rights and HIV/AIDS and need to be trained on HIV/AIDS protection training and awareness raising.

- 10) A study should be carried out on the impact of the refugee integration programme so far, in order to identify, based on lessons learned, what improvements can be made.
- 11) Separated children are assigned a guardian who is an employee of the Migration Office - the RSD procedure body, the separated children abandon the RSD procedure and leave the country within few weeks after entering into the procedure. A coordinated system of registration and evidence of separated children should be established and it would enable close monitoring; an analysis of the state of separated children entering the RSD procedure should be made and a system of guardianship for separated children, which would meet the standards of the SCEP SGP, should be established.
- 12) Refugee-assisting NGOs need support with fundraising, increasing the impact of their work, and in developing their organizational skills in the areas of strategic planning, partnership relations and constituency-building fundraising.
- 13) The majority of asylum-seekers continue to abandon the RSD procedure and migrate irregularly to the EU; some recognized refugees also move on from the Slovak Republic. NGOs should focus their assistance programme for those refugees who are expressing the intention to remain in Slovakia and should avoid to provide particular aid to those cases which clearly demonstrate no intention to remain in Slovakia
- 14) There is a general lack of awareness amongst the public and many officials of the distinction between refugees and economic migrants and of the needs of refugees and asylum-seekers.
- 15) Xenophobia is prevalent amongst certain sections of the population and it has resulted in racist attacks against minorities and foreigners, including refugees and asylum-seekers. In coordination with other agencies involved in human rights issues it will be possible to conduct awareness activities.

Policy issues

UNHCR's programme in the Slovak Republic supports the Office's overall strategy for the Central European and the Baltic States (CEBS) for the period 2002 – 2004, which is composed of three themes and two beneficiary populations: Theme #1 Strengthening Asylum and Theme #2 Partnership. In this context, UNHCR is working towards achieving a situation in Europe in which-

1. The quality of asylum is preserved in a uniting Europe
2. Access to the territory of Europe for asylum is ensured
3. Countries developing new asylum systems achieve international standards in legislation and practice
4. Integration of refugees becomes a real possibility in Central Europe
5. European countries increase their support to UNHCR world-wide
6. Xenophobia and racism towards refugees and asylum-seekers decrease
7. Statelessness is reduced and effective solutions for stateless persons are identified

Linkages to other countries within a defined "situation"

Regular contacts will be maintained with the RUB and also with the network of the SCEP. Under the Uzhgorod process, contacts will be maintained with Ukraine and Hungary.

Capacity and presence of implementing partners

UNHCR cooperates with four NGO partners and the Government partner Migration Office. The NGO partners in the Slovak Republic are the Bjornson Society (BJS), Society of Goodwill (GWS), Slovak Helsinki Committee (SHeC) and Slovak Humanitarian Council (SHC). The implementing partner's activities include:

1. Providing refugees and asylum-seekers with legal advice and assistance with the RSD procedure, residency rights, family reunion, applications for Slovak citizenship, exercise of socio-economic rights, etc.
2. Providing refugees and asylum-seekers with social counselling and assistance, including specialized psychiatric services where needed and approaching the asylum seekers with gender/age perspective.
3. Organizing activities for asylum-seekers in the reception centres, including day-care for pre-school age children in one centre, computer classes and recreational and other activities.
4. Supporting refugees to achieve self-sufficiency as part of the process of their integration in Slovakia by providing assistance with finding and settling-in, to accommodation, language and vocational training, labour insertion, registration with labour and social offices, enrolment of children in school, interventions with local authorities and other advocacy measures.
5. Monitoring practices in relation to access to the RSD procedure, monitoring of borders, use of detention, reception conditions for asylum-seekers, determination of refugee status, gender issues, the rights of asylum-seekers and refugees and the best interests of separated children and unaccompanied minors; intervening as necessary with the authorities and promoting clarification and improvement in standards and identifying and promoting best practice; adopting UNHCR protection policy priorities and incorporating those into their daily work; providing HIV/AIDS basic rights awareness training to asylum seekers.
6. Offering legal practice for law school students in the frame of Refugee Law Legal Clinics under the supervision of the lawyers and practice for social work students at Social Clinic.
7. Carrying out public information activities.

It can be seen that the activities of NGO partners are wide in scope and very labour-intensive. However, resources are thinly stretched and NGOs, given the pressing needs of refugees and asylum-seekers, often face the dilemma of quantity versus quality in service provision. So far, the lack of additional sources of support has meant that the NGOs have been almost 100% reliant on the funding that UNHCR is able to provide for their activities on behalf of refugees and asylum-seekers. However, unless NGOs can begin to identify additional sources of funds, they are likely to face increasing difficulties in providing services of sufficient quality and scope as the asylum system expands and the numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers increase.

Some NGO partners have already made some progress in the diversification of their funding base. For example, the premises of the Society of Goodwill (GWS) were donated by the municipality and include units which GWS is able to rent out to raise revenue for some of its activities. In February 2002 the Migration Office, for the third time, provided modest funding to an NGO, Charitas, based in Eastern Slovakia, to assist refugees accommodated in reconstructed housing. (Previously, in 2001, Migration Office provided funding to Goodwill Society, to assist and monitor the integration of refugees accommodated at the reconstructed housing at Vodarenska street in Kosice.) The Bjornson Society and other NGO partners have also managed to raise donations in kind, for example, of clothing and second-hand furniture.

In 2001 UNHCR, the Open Society Foundation (OSF) and the American Bar Association - Central and East European Law Initiative (ABA - CEELI) supported together as a group of donors the creation of a refugee and human rights law legal clinics, which became operational in January 2002. The purpose of the clinic is to provide an academic course in refugee and human rights law and an opportunity for the law students to practice their legal skills and gain experience working on real

cases under close supervision in refugee and human rights NGOs. The purpose equally encourages *pro-bono* work in the legal sector and provides free legal services to the indigent, including refugees, asylum-seekers and others who present legal cases involving human rights issues, such as victims of domestic violence. Two project Refugee Law Legal Clinics are functioning: a) The Department of International Law at P.J. Safarik University in Kosice in partnership with NGO Goodwill Society in Kosice and b) The Department of International Law at Trnava University in partnership with the Slovak Helsinki Committee. The donors' group supported both clinics. UNHCR's support includes training. From UNHCR's perspective, a successful legal clinic could, over time and in a low-cost manner, help to expand the provision of legal services to refugees and asylum-seekers, increase the professionalism of the services provided and contribute towards creating a *pro-bono* culture and a future generation of refugee law practitioners. Similar activities have been initiated by UNHCR in the social field and discussions have been lead with the Trnava University and Slovak Humanitarian Council and the Migration Office three main actors to be involved in a Social Clinic. A successful planning leading to opening social clinics will lead to cost effective and larger coverage of the social counselling provided to the asylum seekers in the centers and will facilitate the creation of a spirit of mutual co-operation between NGOs and administration on one side and academics and students on the other.

Presence and role of other UN agencies and international organizations.

IOM has increased its presence in the Slovak Republic and has an agreement with the Ministry of Interior under which IOM will organize the voluntary return of migrants, including unsuccessful asylum-seekers, to their country of origin. However, in practice there has been very low take-up of the voluntary return scheme and the vast majority of migrants are attempting to move irregularly to the Western European countries. IOM has produced a document "The Living and Social Conditions of Roma in Slovakia" and is also engaged in a project on Trafficking of Women. UNHCR has entered into discussions with IOM on issues of separated children and has agreed to exchange information on this issue and coordinate activities undertaken in respect of separated children. IOM may get involved in voluntary return of separated children. Bilateral cooperation between BAFI and the Migration Office as well as the Austrian Migration Office was done on a small scale in 2001 and it will be carried on also during 2002/3.

UNDP

As UNDP Regional office is re-organizing his presence in Slovakia trying to increase its capacity as the leading UN agency UNHCR will participate to coordination meetings with other UN agencies and will share information and will develop activities in the field of human rights, minority rights and some capacity building activities.

Delegation of EU Commission

UNHCR will be cooperating with the Delegation of EU Commission in the domain of Justice and Home Affairs. In particular the harmonization of the national legislation in line with the EU *Acquis* on aylum and in Cross-border Co-operation between Ukraine, Hungary and Slovakia (Future EU External Borders) will be the two main areas of cooperation. UNHCR will also lobby at the EU Commission for funding for the NGO Implementing Partners.

Documentation Centre of the Council of Europe

UNHCR will be cooperating with the Documentation Centre of the Council of Europe in the field of human rights education and will be involved in common training activities.

b/ Selected Programme Goals and Objectives
Programme for Beneficiary Population no. 1 /for Theme no. 1

Name of Beneficiary Population/Theme	
Asylum Seekers/Strengthening asylum	
Main Goals:	
1. Persons in need of international protection have access to the territory of Slovakia	
2. Asylum seekers have access to fair, efficient and affective asylum procedures and are treated in accordance with international protection standards	
Principal Objectives	Related Outputs
1/a Measures to combat irregular migration and smuggling include adequate safeguards against direct or indirect refoulement	1/a A/ Alien and Border Police Guards and Migration Office authorities trained on 1951 Geneva Convention and international human rights instrument B/ National legislation effectively commented C/ NGOs guided and trained; conduct of effective and increased border monitoring, monitoring places of detention and places of entry including airports; data on separated children collected D/ Enhanced cross border cooperation by organizing and participating in trilateral meetings with Hungarian, Slovakian and Ukrainian asylum border police authorities
2/a Asylum seekers have access to procedures in which their claims are heard fairly and promptly	2/a A/ System of effective legal and social counselling taking place during crucial few days after arrival of asylum seekers to the reception centres established and functioning. B/ Judges and eligibility officers supported in enhancing their capacity resulted in higher recognition rate (RUB) C/ System of identification and registration of Separated children established and functioning, system of addressing their protection needs in place including the appointment of guardian and legal representation; refugee status determination of separated children undertaken with special regard to child-specific forms of human rights violations and in child-sensitive manner; training and awareness-raising on the separated children issue among the GO authorities directly/indirectly involved in the asylum procedure, GO social counsellors working in reception centres, NGO social and legal counsellors and other child-oriented GO and NGO organizations and institutions.

<p>2/b Legal frameworks for asylum are established in line with international standards and practice</p> <p>2/d States adopt fair burden sharing (not burden shifting) measures which clearly allocate responsibility for determining refugee claims</p> <p>2/e Asylum seekers are treated in accordance with international standards</p>	<p>D/ More aggressive search of strong cases by the NGO legal counsellors</p> <p>E/ Enhanced and joint approach of the social and legal counsellors in assistance to the asylum seekers established and functioning.</p> <p>F/ Legal counselling and representation strengthened and supported by legal clinics (RUB), focused on policy priorities – separated children, female headed households, elderly and handicapped; systematic representation of separated children established; data of RSD procedure with separated children collected and analysed</p> <p>G/ System of gaining reliable COI improved by established cooperation with ACCORD (RUB) and developed COI and Documentation centre at the Migration Office, resulting in improved quality of the RSD procedure decisions by the GO authorities</p> <p>H/ All stages of the RSD procedure closely monitored, gaps identified and remedies sought and implemented.</p> <p>I/ Increased number of submitted positions of legal NGOs taken into account by the asylum authorities before 1st instance decisions and increased number of positive decisions at 2nd instance decisions.</p> <p>2/b A/ The development of the EU and national legislation actively and effectively monitored</p> <p>B/ National legislation successfully commented in order to be in line with international standards</p> <p>2/d A/ Uzgorod process enhanced by cross border cooperation among the Slovak Republic, Hungary and Ukraine</p> <p>2/e A/ Reception process monitored and effectively influenced according to the international standards by UNHCR and by enhanced capacities and professionalism of legal NGO</p> <p>B/ Social assistance and legal counselling available to all asylum seekers on weekly basis, special attention paid to female headed</p>
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	<p>households, elderly and handicapped</p> <p>C/ The staff working in the reception facilities, both GO and NGO sensitised and aware of the protection needs of asylum seekers, on the basis of gender and age analysis and aware of the UNHCR/UNAIDS international guidelines on HR and HIV/AIDS</p> <p>D/ Separated children psycho-social needs, accommodation, health and education needs addressed; system of care of separated children according to the Statement of Good Practice established and functioning on the national level; enhanced awareness and professional approach of the UNHCR, GO and NGO staff working with asylum seekers.</p>
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Programme for Beneficiary Population no. 2/for Theme no. 1

Name of Beneficiary Population/Theme	
Recognized Refugees/Strengthening asylum	
Main Goals:	
3. The rights of refugees are respected, and affective durable solutions are found for them.	
4. Public opinion is receptive to the protection and solution needs of refugees	
Principal Objectives	Related Outputs
3/a Refugee rights are respected	3/a A/ Better social and civil rights advocated for mandate refugees. B/ System of reporting of not respecting of refugee rights functioning.
3/b Refugees have real possibilities to integrate	3/b A/ Plan for achieving self sufficiency drafted with each newly recognized refugee. B/ Slovak language lessons organized for all newly recognized refugees C/ Affordable housing or financial supplement available for newly recognized refugees. D/ Newly recognized refugees have access to 100% social benefits instead of 50%. E/ Newly recognized refugees accepted by the local community and helped to integrate F/ Evaluation, development and implementation of government policy on integration pursued and initiated with the state authorities.

<p>4/a Xenophobic trends diminish in favour of increased tolerance, and the public at large understands the relevance of refugee protection, and the difference between economic migrants and refugees</p> <p>4/b UNHCR's standing as the international authority on refugee protection is understood and acknowledged</p>	<p>G/ Citizenship fees according to the new asylum law monitored.</p> <p>H/ Capacity of social counsellors working with refugees enhanced (RUB)</p> <p>I/ Social assistance to asylum seekers aiming to prepare them for easy integration strengthened by established social clinics</p> <p>J/ Public awareness promoting the integration work of NGO implementing partners on national level established and functioning.</p> <p>K/ Integration system in line with SGP in place for separated children that equally benefits those with refugee status as well as those with other complementary status.</p> <p>4/a A/ Public awareness campaigns promoting tolerance organized in cooperation with NGOs and GO</p> <p>B/ Survey organized on level of tolerance, xenophobia and refugee/migration terminology</p> <p>C/ Results of the survey leading to addressing specific target groups; raising awareness at identified interest groups</p> <p>D/ Identification and collaboration of the allies in order to coin refugee protection messages</p> <p>E/ Media interested in asylum and refugee issues</p> <p>4/b A/ General public is informed About the international obligations of Slovakia in the area of asylum</p> <p>B/ Government Officials and key local authorities will perceive UNHCR as the world's leading refugee-assisting organisation and as a core institution helping to assist the Slovak Government to develop a national asylum system</p> <p>C/ Educational kit for elementary schools compiled</p> <p>D/ Secondary and elementary school curricula will include chapters on refugee issues</p> <p>E/ Promotion of refugees through organization and promotion of International Refugee Day</p>
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Programme for Beneficiary Population no. 1 and 2/for Theme no. 2

Name of Theme Partnership	
Main Goals: Partnership with Europe	
Principal Objectives	Related Outputs
1/a Political support	1/a A/ Active participation of the GO at meetings organized by UNHCR B/ GO adopts UNHCR protection concerns and international standards on the reception of refugees
2/a Financial support	2/a A/ Slovak Republic will increase financial contribution to the international community