WHO Romania Monthly Newsletter

July 2023 Highlights

- *WHO Romania conducted a field trip to five counties in Romania, meeting with local authorities and county health partners to identify key gaps and challenges within the refugee health response.*

- *WHO Romania distributed 15,000 copies of the 'Vaccination Guide for Family Doctors' to county public health directorates, health insurance houses, medical universities and family medicine clinics across the nation.*

- *WHO Romania co-organized, in collaboration with MoH, the event "Best Practice Models for Hospitals - The Role of Local Authorities" in Bistrita, Romania.*

Emergency Response

WHO Romania County Field Trip

WHO Romania conducted a county field trip between 16- 21 July, visiting Baia Mare, Brasov, Cluj, Sibiu, and Tg Mures:

1. Language still remains a significant barrier to healthcare access for Ukrainian refugees in Romania, with a few exceptions. Sibiu, for example, has a high number of medical providers from Moldova who speak Romanian and Russian and this has helped to address the language barrier between Ukrainians and Romanian health service providers.

2. Increasing numbers of refugees have reportedly been able to register with a family doctor, with approximately 80% of the resident refugee population in Cluj now registered. However, significant challenges remain related to administrative difficulties faced by family doctors, which resulted in many GPs being disincentivized to provide care to Ukrainians. The complicated process to register Ukrainians on the NHIH platform and apply for reimbursement, combined with the risk of penalisation during the biannual audits if errors are found have resulted in many family doctors forgoing the process altogether.

1 - WHO Romania staff meet Public Health Director Dr Moisescu Goia Mihai in Cluj-Napoca on 17 July 2023.

2 - WHO Romania staff meet with Maramures County Health Insurance House Representatives, Dr. Lazăr Dan and Camelia Stretea on 18 July.

Distribution of Book 'Vaccination Guide for Family Doctors'

Following the successful Family Doctor Immunization Workshop conducted on 29 June 2023, WHO Romania has distributed 15,000 copies of the 'Vaccination Guide for Family Doctors' authored by AREPMF.

The book provides insights into updated guidelines regarding routine vaccination requirements in Romania.

1. 7,500 books to the College of Physicians, who will distribute to its members across the country.
2. 3,500 books to county Public Health Directorates and Health Insurance Houses across the main cities Baia Mare, Brasov, Cluj, Constanta, Galati, Sibiu, and Tg Mures.
3. 3,000 copies were distributed to the Chamber of Nurses.
4. 1,000 copies to 10 selected medical universities across Romania.
5. 500 copies to the National Roma Agency.

3 - The book 'Vaccination Guide for Family Doctors' authored by the Romanian Association for Pediatric Education in Family Medicine (AREPMF) provides an overview on the updated routine immunization guidelines.

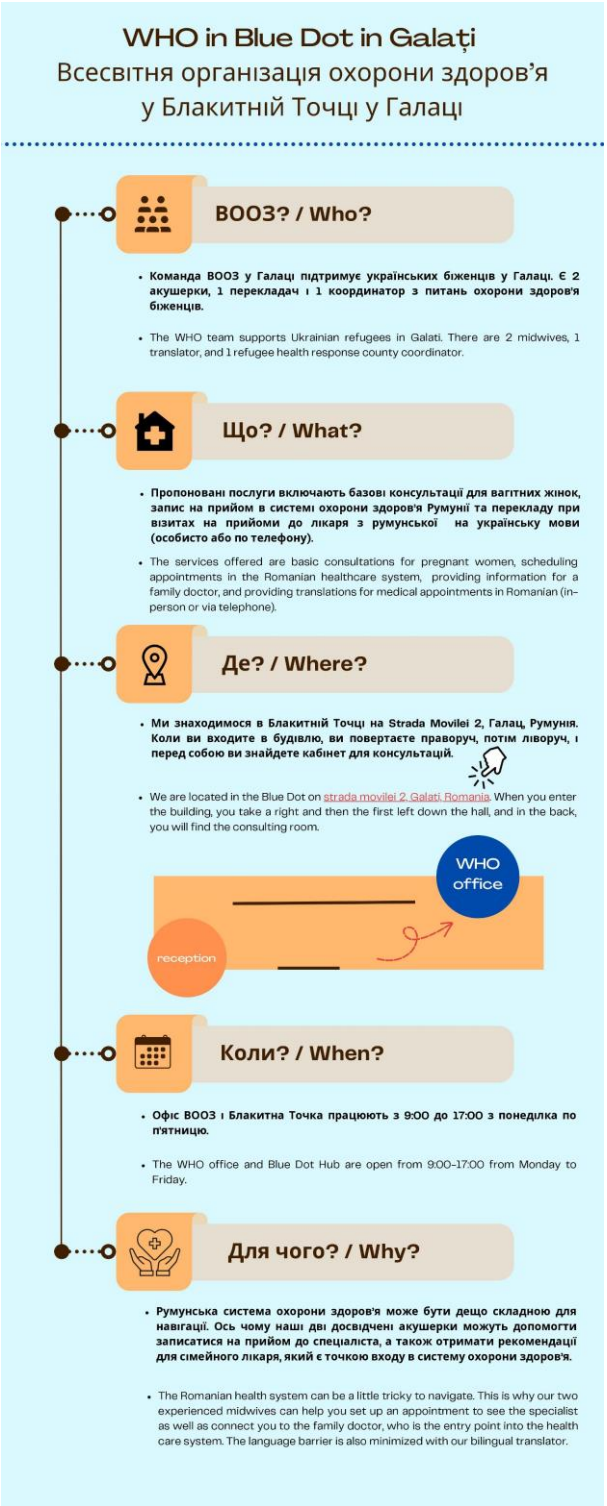
Further Activities

- WHO cultural mediators in Galati coordinated with UNHCR to provide an elderly Ukrainian refugee with hearing aids.
- WHO county coordinators and midwives in Galati developed short digital infographics promoting refugee inclusive services within the county. The infographic was shared on Ukrainian social media channels.
- WHO Romania delivered trainings on WHO Emergency Mental Health Guidelines to Romanian health service providers. The workshop aimed to provide participants with practical examples of how to implement these guidelines and use them in the field.
- WHO Romania launched a communication campaign aimed at young Romanians and Ukrainians. The campaign aims to tackle myths and misconceptions around contraception and STIs. The campaign was shared on WHO Romania social media and leaflets were distributed at Bucharest Pride Park, between 26-29 July.
- In response to the current heatwave in Southern Europe, WHO Romania translated and shared a communication campaign on staying cool and avoiding heatstroke.

4 - Social media campaign tile on tackling contraception and STIs myths.

5 - Leaflets aiming to tackle myths and misconceptions surrounding contraception and STIs were distributed at Bucharest Pride 2023.

6 - Digital infographic promoting the services of WHO family doctor, Dr. Olga Betcu.



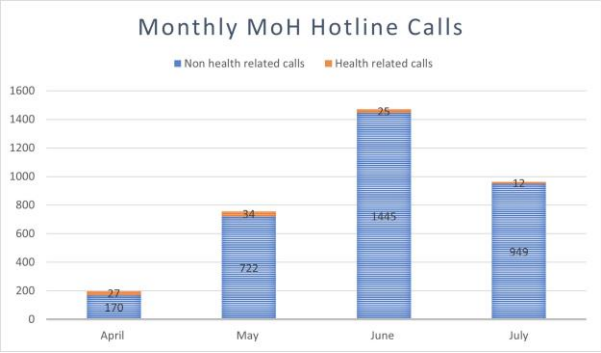
7 - Digital infographic providing guidance on accessing care in Galati.

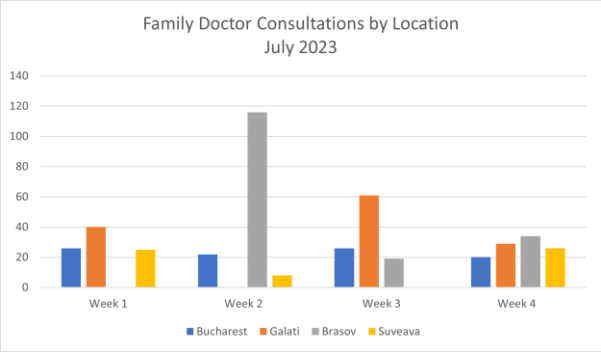
Monthly Data Insights

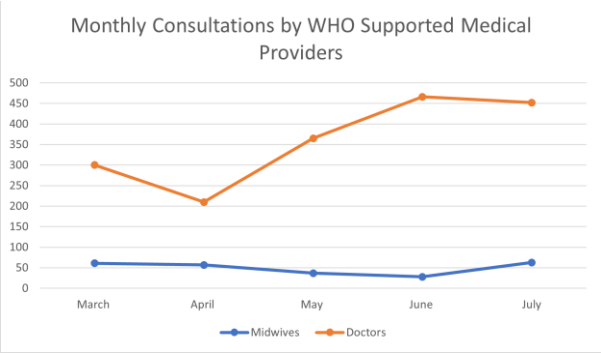
In July 2023:

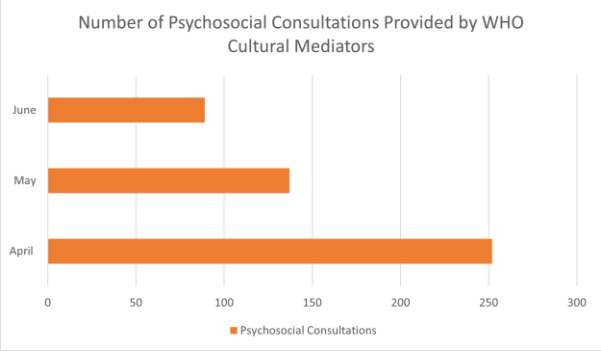
1. WHO Romania supported family doctors provided a total of 452 consultations for 421 Ukrainian patients.

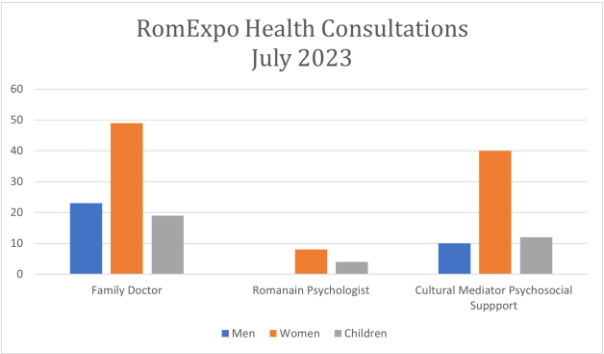
2. At RomExpo, WHO supported family doctors, psychologists and cultural mediators provided 165 consultations to Ukrainians.
3. WHO Romania supported midwives in Galati provided 63 consultations to Ukrainian patients in the area.
4. WHO cultural mediators provided psychosocial support services to 89 Ukrainian refugees in supported locations.
5. The WHO supported MoH hotline answered a total 949 calls, of which 12 were health related.











National Recovery & Resilience Plan (NRRP)

"Best Practice Models for Hospitals - The Role of Local Authorities"

- WHO Romania supported the MoH event "Models of Good Practice in Hospital Administration - The Role of Local Authorities" in Bistrita on 13 & 14 July 2023.
- 140 participants, among them hospital managers and medical directors from across Romania, attended the conference, which included sessions on the control & prevention of healthcare associated infections, attracting & retaining human resources in the healthcare sector, communication between patients and health professionals, and financing public hospitals.
- WHO speakers included: Dr Silvia Gatscher, Health Operations Manager, who presented on "*Healthcare Acquired Infections and Antibiotic Resistance in Romania*"; Mr. Khamis Al-Alawy, NRRP Technical Lead, on "*Attracting and Retaining Human Resources in Healthcare*"; Dr. Alexandre Lourenco, Coimbra Hospital Manager, NOVA University of Public Health in Lisbon, on "*Financing public hospitals*".

8 - Health Minister Prof. Rafila opens the conference "Best Practice Models for Hospitals - The Role of Local Authorities".

9 - Hospital managers and medical directors participate in the conference "Best Practice Models for Hospitals - The Role of Local Authorities".

10 - Dr Silvia Gatscher, Health Operations Manager and and Mr. Khamis Al-Alawy, NRRP Technical Lead, in discussion with Romanian Health Minister Prof. Rafila.

11 - Participants from the conference "Best Practice Models for Hospitals - The Role of Local Authorities" visiting the Bistrita County Emergency Hospital.

Further NRRP Updates

- The MoH, in collaboration with WHO Romania, published the beneficiary's guide for the digitalisation of hospitals in Romania, which informs hospitals about the application process for available NRRP funds for the digitalisation of 200 hospitals.
- WHO experts visited the 6 hospitals selected by the MoH for the pilot study testing a set of indicators for monitoring quality of care and patient safety. They conducted trainings on the indicators, methodology, data collection and reporting.

12 - WHO Quality team with hospital staff from Calarasi County Emergency Hospital.

13 - WHO experts and health workers at Bucharest Clinical Emergency Hospital.

Country Office Events & Communications

Activity Summary

- WHO Romania participated in the mid-year review of the 2023 United Nations Ukraine Refugee Response Plan (RRP) on 14 July 2023. The event was attended by the State Secretary Dr. Arafat, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Head of the Department of Emergency Situations (DSU). UNHCR presented achievements by sector and flagged sustainable funding as the key issue going forward for all RRP partners, particularly local NGOs.

- WHO Romania representatives met with Mr. Kent Healy, Refugee Coordinator for Bulgaria, Moldova and Romania and representatives of the U.S. Embassy during a visit to RomExpo on 26 July. Discussions included health access, health information and MHPSS support WHO

Romania continues to provide to Ukrainians and well as the need to strengthen the national strategy against GBV, through collaboration with UN organizations and local NGOs.

14 - WHO Romania meets with representatives of the U.S. Embassy in RomExpo on 26 July 2023

Keep in touch

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