



Romania

January 2024

Since the start of the international armed conflict in Ukraine which has forced some 6 million people to flee their homes to seek safety, protection, and assistance across Europe, more than 5.5 million border crossings into Romania have been recorded. The Government and partners including civil society, the private sector, volunteers, and international organisations have responded to the crisis with generosity and hospitality.

UN agencies and NGOs, support the national response in coordination of humanitarian actors under the framework of the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) and through the Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) and sector working groups. The 2024 Romania RRP is aligned with the Government National Plan of Measures (NPM) for the protection and socio-economic inclusion of refugees from Ukraine.

UNHCR leads the Inter-Agency platform comprising of 37 appealing partners implementing humanitarian activities for the refugees from Ukraine. During January 2024 Regional Refugee Response Plan for Ukraine and Ukraine Humanitarian Needs and the Response Plan were jointly launched on 15 January by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

KEY FIGURES*

6 M

individual refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe.

5.5 M

border crossings from Ukraine and Moldova into Romania

77,730

refugees from Ukraine present in Romania.

152,342

obtained temporary protection in Romania.

73

percent of refugees are women and children.

REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN (RRP) FOR THE UKRAINE SITUATION**

USD 1.1 B

Overall financial requirements

USD 117 M

Romania financial requirements

37

Partners involved in the Romania response

*See the [Operational Data Portal for the Ukraine Refugee Situation](#) and the [Romania portal page](#) for more details on refugee population figures and information resources. **See the [Ukraine Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan](#) for a breakdown of sectoral response priorities and requirements and the [Refugee Funding Tracker](#) for RRP funding information.

Operational context

Since 24 February 2022, more than 6 million people from Ukraine have sought refuge across Europe. As of 31 January 2024, border police recorded more than 5.5 million border crossings from Ukraine and Moldova into Romania. 150,871 Ukrainians and 1,471 Third Country Nationals obtained temporary protection in Romania, which provides access to healthcare, education, and the labour market. The number of refugees from Ukraine present in Romania decreased during the past month from 85,710 (on 31 December) to 77,730 on 31 January.

The 2024 Regional Refugee Response Plan for Ukraine and Ukraine Humanitarian Needs and the Response Plan were launched together on 15 January by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The event, chaired by Mr. Filippo Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and Mr. Martin Griffiths, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, was attended by members states and featured panels that included Ms. Denise Brown, United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Ukraine, a representative of the Government of Ukraine, and NGO representatives. Notably, a refugee hosted in Romania shared her experiences as a refugee and her hopes for the future.

On 12 January, the Inter-Agency Coordination team gathered 27 national and local level coordinators representing the sectoral working groups, task forces and networks to discuss key actions to achieve strategic objectives, integrate cross-cutting priorities, harmonise advocacy efforts, and promote a multi-stakeholder partnership approach for the 2024 RRP, as well as how to strengthen the overall coordination architecture in Romania.



Spotlight on: Sus Inima Programmes for Refugee Integration

The Sus Inima Programmes for Refugee Integration (SIPRI) protection programme is a comprehensive initiative designed to address the social, legal, and economic needs of refugees, while also aiding authorities in essential registrations. The Protection team operates on the ground, conducting fieldwork to better understand the evolving needs of refugee communities and societal changes. This hands-on approach allows SIPRI to provide tailored guidance and support to refugees, ensuring they have access to vital services and resources.

One key aspect of SIPRI's protection initiative is its focus on raising awareness and building capacity in Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEAH) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV). Through capacity-building training and dissemination of good practices, SIPRI equips both refugees and relevant stakeholders, including authorities and community leaders, with the knowledge and tools necessary to prevent and respond to PSEAH and GBV incidents effectively.

Additionally, SIPRI's protection team facilitates essential registrations for refugees, assisting them in navigating complex legal processes and ensuring their rights are upheld. By providing guidance on social, legal, and economic matters, SIPRI empowers refugees' successful integration into their host communities.

SIPRI's collaborative effort with UNHCR in distributing core relief items in January showcases their commitment to providing essential humanitarian aid to displaced populations, covering the needs of the refugee community in Sibiu, Hunedoara and Alba counties.

The shortage of funding for humanitarian aid in 2024, and for SIPRI's protection programme in particular, poses a significant risk of leaving vulnerable refugee communities without vital social, legal, and economic support, exacerbating their already precarious situation and hindering their ability to access essential services and protection measures.



Protection

Achievements and Impact

- The Protection Working Group (PWG) dedicated its first monthly meeting of the year to reviewing its terms of reference and discussing its 2024 workplan. The discussion was structured around four central themes - legal issues, social benefits and access to social protection, social cohesion, and communication with communities. Members brought forward ideas relating to joint analysis, information gathering, advocacy, operational guidance development, capacity building, and communication products. Activities which will be incorporated into the workplan include the joint identification of community leaders with a view to strengthening community structures, the regular sharing of available legal analysis developed by PWG members with legal expertise, and the joint mapping of local practices on accessing social benefits. Members of the group also expressed interest in discussing issues related to asylum-seekers and beneficiaries of international protection in monthly meetings considering the specific challenges faced by these groups.
- Protection partners advocated for better access to social assistance programmes for holders of temporary protection permits. A new analysis looking at existing laws on different social benefit programmes was shared with the authorities by UNHCR showed that there is no need to amend each of these laws with a view to ensuring that beneficiaries of temporary protection can access social benefits.
- Protection partners continued providing information and protection services to refugees from Ukraine. The Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR) provided support to 2,857 refugees from Ukraine on both protection-related issues and on their integration in Bucharest, Braşov, Constanţa, Galaţi, Iaşi, Maramureş, Suceava, and Tulcea. CNRR also provided information remotely through its call centre to 247 refugees. CNRR also held four community consultations in Iaşi, Suceava, and Zărneşti (Braşov county) providing accurate information on access of temporary protection holders to child allowance, the disability recognition procedure, and related services, as well as long-term residence and professional retraining in Romania. These topics were of high priority for many of Ukrainian refugees, due to increasing reliance on state social services and benefits, and feelings of insecurity regarding potential return to Ukraine.
- Save the Children provided services to 9,310 children and adults from Ukraine at the Isaccea, Sighetu Marmăţiei, and Siret border crossing points, two transit points (Gara de Nord and Romexpo in Bucharest), five Accommodation and Procedures Centres for Asylum Seekers (Bucharest, Galaţi, Rădăuţi, Şomcuta Mare, and Timişoara), and at integrated service and counselling centres in Baia Mare, Bucharest, Constanţa, Galaţi, Iaşi, Suceava, Târgu Mureş, Timişoara, and Tulcea. Those assisted received support including information and legal counselling, accessing accommodation, obtaining temporary protection permits, applying for the government assistance programme, registration with family doctors and accessing the medical system, accessing the labour market, as well as accompanying and language (translations) for accessing services provided by other organisations and institutions. Save the Children is also present in other areas through mobile teams offering similar services in Alba Iulia, Bistriţa, and Sighişoara.
- Terre des Hommes (TdH) together with the Civic Resource Centre assisted refugees in Bucharest, Braşov, and Constanţa, as well as with City Makers in Baia Mare. TdH and its partners provided adapted information, referrals, translation services, transportation to essential services, individual protection assistance (IPA), Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), and educational activities, targeting both children and adults. Collectively, the interventions ensured support to 85 adults, through both group and individual MHPSS sessions, and IPA through direct services and

referrals, including provision of food, medical appointments, assistance with legal documentation and translation services.

- As part of a UNICEF partnership, the Four Change Association and the UTCB Transit Centre for Refugees provided social and educational support to a total of 92 people: 40 children (18 girls and 22 boys), 36 women and 16 men. Services provided included facilitating other accommodation options, access to community healthcare services, and access to social services. 18 persons participated in counselling sessions dealing with alternative methods to support the payment of rent and on their integration into the host community, as well as the prevention of dependence on social services.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- On 18 January, the Government of Romania adopted amendments to Government Decision 368/2023, which allows for the exemption of certain vulnerable groups (persons temporarily unable to work for medical reasons, and women in their third trimester of pregnancy), and for the inclusion of self-employed persons or adolescents aged 15 to 18 registered for work or working as eligible for support. Protection partners are monitoring how the changes are interpreted by local authorities to assess their impact.
- The backlog of more than six months for payments under the government housing assistance program remains a main concern for beneficiaries of temporary protection. A partial reimbursement payment to Romanian hosts through the previous 50/20 programme (in April 2023) somewhat eased existing tensions between the former hosts and Ukrainian refugees.
- As refugees' savings dissipate and incomes stagnate amid inflation, protection partners observe a continuous interest in state social services and benefits, especially child allowance, disability allowance, assistance for children in school, emergency housing and shelter. Accurate information provision and advocacy with local and national authorities for equal access will be essential.



Child Protection

Achievements and Impact

- At the beginning of the year, the National Authority for the Protection of Children Rights and Adoption (NAPCRA) had a total of 35,275 Ukrainian children registered in its case management system (17,556 girls, 17,719 boys). Primero is the case registration system for Ukrainian refugees managed by NAPCRA and originally supported by UNICEF. While it is still used for its core function of identifying and registering vulnerable children and facilitating case management, NAPCRA has started using aggregated data to support planning and strengthened responses for refugees, including for example the analysis of the costs related to the enrolment of temporary protection beneficiaries from Ukraine in Romania's social protection system being carried out in partnership between UN agencies and the Chancellery of the Prime Minister. This is a significant achievement in line with efforts to strengthen a resilient and inclusive child protection system in the medium and long-term.
- The Child Protection Sub-Working Group, led by UNHCR and UNICEF, conducted a planning workshop and outlined priorities for 2024, including improving information sharing, resource dissemination, and communication among stakeholders. In 2024, the Working Group will focus on addressing specific issues like safeguarding children with disabilities and producing key messages to have a common advocacy standpoint on the return of children, as well as capacity building and guidance around ensuring resilient and inclusive child protection service delivery complementary to government responses, especially at border crossing points. UNHCR and UNICEF will collaborate closely on protecting unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) in Romania, developing a joint tracking tool, and advocacy messages.

- The UNHCR Office in Constanța, UNICEF, and World Vision joined a Working Group on UASC organized by the Constanța Directorate for Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC), with other local authorities, and the National Agency Against Human Trafficking also represented. They discussed past activities and set priorities for 2024, agreeing to meet monthly.
- World Vision reached more than 750 Ukrainian children at “Happy Bubbles” socio-educational centres in Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Constanța, Iași, Suceava and Râmnicu Vâlcea with social inclusion in collaboration with local communities. The mixed approaches used, including child protection and MHPSS interventions, aim to improve children’s sense of security, well-being, and engagement while stimulating all developmental pillars. The children also participated in child protection workshops designed to celebrate and advocate for child rights. The aim of these activities is to reduce the vulnerability of children by addressing the gap in knowledge regarding children’s rights, access to services and resources and the Romanian reporting mechanisms.
- World Vision supported various activities to create a protective environment for young children and adolescents alike. For example, in Bucharest, 25 Ukrainian and 20 Romanian kindergarten-aged children took part in a mini-theatre workshop, an occupational therapy session and they started to learn Romanian songs enabling communication and establishing new friendships. In Cluj, nine Romanian and Ukrainian children aged between 5 and 7 participated in sport-based activities to contribute to the development of teamwork and cooperation skills and 14 Romanian and Ukrainian children and youths aged 9 to 19 attended a cultural exchange activity on traditions in different countries and creative abilities to develop empathy, compassion, and community spirit among children of different cultures.
- In all locations, World Vision facilitated both individual and group MHPSS sessions for parents and caregivers. These activities aim to reduce parental stress and hopelessness and encourage positive coping mechanisms, improve their wellbeing, and strengthen parent–child relationships.
- TdH assisted 426 children in Bucharest, Brașov, Constanța, and through partners in Baia Mare, with MHPSS sessions, educational activities, adapted information, referrals, and IPA.
- Save the Children reached 3,438 Ukrainian children and 5,872 adults with services including social evaluation and counselling, internal and external referrals at integrated hubs and counselling centres in Bucharest, Baia Mare, Galați, Suceava, Târgu Mureș, Timișoara, and Tulcea. Meanwhile, 117 new children and their families received child protection case management services. In Suceava, 11 Ukrainian women participated in an information session on accessing the state child allowance. Participants discussed the eligibility criteria and raised numerous questions on the subject.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Due to the long distances some children must travel to reach their schools, they can be exposed to various child protection risks. This issue should be followed-up with the education group for action.



Gender-Based Violence

Achievements and Impact

- On 29 January, Anais Association, UNICEF, and UNHCR met to agree on the way forward regarding the planned joint safety audit in Romania providing relevant stakeholders a holistic overview of the GBV risks affecting refugees from Ukraine and the mitigating factors. The collaboration will facilitate the exchange of ideas and data, ensuring a comprehensive approach to addressing GBV concerns among the Ukrainian refugee population. Moving forward, the organizations involved will continue to work closely together, leveraging each other’s expertise and resources to enhance the effectiveness of the safety audits and ultimately improve the protection of vulnerable individuals.

- Sensiblu Foundation made significant advancements in delivering specialised support for survivors of Gender-Based Violence among Ukrainian refugees. Noteworthy among these efforts was the successful premiere of the inaugural online support group, tailored specifically for participants from Băile Olănești in Vâlcea county. The Ukrainian refugees embraced this approach, expressing gratitude for continued support, even remotely. Their keen enthusiasm for future online sessions underscores the absence of local organizations providing similar opportunities for interaction and specialised assistance. Furthermore, there is growing interest from men in engaging with awareness groups at the Constanța hub. In January, approximately 200 refugees attended group sessions in Bucharest, Constanța, Suceava, and Vâlcea.



Education

Achievements and Impact

- Overall, 37,856 refugee children from Ukraine are now recorded as officially enrolled in the Romanian education system¹, including 10,683 who have acquired the full pupil status, and 21,079 children and youths who are engaging in Romanian schools with a transitional status as audients. 5,618 children are also registered in early childhood education and care institutions (at 'ante-preschool' level). In considering [latest UNHCR data](#) on beneficiaries of temporary protection in Romania, this suggests that about 80 per cent of all refugee children from Ukraine, and about 91 percent of the estimated school aged population of Ukrainian children in Romania, are now enrolled with the Romanian education and early childhood education and care system. This increase is largely because of the reform introduced by the Government of Romania in April 2023, making it mandatory for Ukrainian children in Romania to enrol in local schools or in non-formal education services available locally to qualify for social benefits under the temporary protection scheme. 73 education hubs are officially registered with the Ministry of Education, providing alternative or complementary learning opportunities - including learning continuity in the Ukrainian curriculum - to an additional 9,764 Ukrainian children. While no official data is currently available on the effective participation of Ukrainian children registered with Romanian schools, information gathered from several county school inspectorates suggests that up to one third of all Ukrainian children registered as audients attend Romanian schools on a regular basis since the new school year started in September, with a significant proportion attending school only from time to time and participating in education hubs, online learning, and language courses in parallel, at least until they can improve their Romanian language skills to the level necessary to engage meaningfully in Romanian schools, with Romanian language as main language of instruction.
- Support continues to be provided in this context to ensure that all Ukrainian children can access quality education services and progressively integrate or transition to the Romanian education system, through diversified learning pathways and bridging modalities including inclusion into Romanian schools, online learning, special classes, after-school activities offering learning support ('education hubs'), and Romanian language training integration supporting transition to the national education system. RRP partners facilitate access to classroom-type education encouraging face-to-face learning and personal

¹ Source: administrative data, Ministry of Education, as at 19 January 2024

interactions, as well as Romanian language courses, MHPSS, and activities fostering local integration, with online learning (in a complementary or alternative manner) only when necessary. Most RRP partners offering alternative or complementary learning support through education hubs increasingly require, and facilitate in most instances, children's registration with the Romanian education system and their participation in Romanian language classes, hence preparing them for progressive integration into the national education system.

- Coordination in the education sector remains critical, both at national and decentralised levels, to extend the provision of educational services and ensure that refugee children can progressively transition to the Romanian education system. UNICEF and JRS chair the Education Working Group in partnership with sister UN agencies (IOM, UNHCR, and the World Bank), the Government of Romania (particularly Ministry of Education), as well as NGOs and other development partners supporting the delivery of educational services.
- In January 2024, efforts focused on local and national coordination, on facilitating increased access to Romanian language courses, identifying options for Ukrainian children having difficulties enrolling and participating fully in local Romanian schools, and facilitating access to alternative or complementary means of learning when necessary. Technical support and advocacy efforts geared towards national authorities were extended by RRP partners, including on monitoring and evaluation systems and capacities, mutual recognition of studies, regulatory frameworks for the provision and certification of Romanian language courses delivered by local NGOs, and exploring support mechanisms to facilitate the integration of Ukrainian refugee teachers in the Romanian education system.
- UNICEF engaged with several county school inspectorates and local NGOs to ensure continuity of education support services, including through partnership agreements to help prolong the operation of education hubs during the current academic year, and to advocate for the organization of additional Romanian language courses under the leadership of county school inspectorates to meet local demand (particularly in Iași, Sibiu, and Suceava). During 19-21 January, the Teaching and Learning in Difficult Times training programme was delivered to 47 teachers and educators (mostly Ukrainian refugee teachers) in Sibiu in collaboration with the British Council. The session was offered in English, but the programme will be adapted and delivered in Romanian language in the coming months in order to extend the programme to all Romanian teachers in schools hosting Ukrainian refugee children and adolescents.
- In January, Save the Children Romania worked with over 800 children from 10 counties, supporting them through educational programmes in 8 schools (in Bucharest, Constanța, Galați, Iași, Năvodari, Tulcea, and Suceava), in 3 educational centres (in Brașov and Iași) and in 8 integrated services and counselling centres (in Bucharest, Galați, Iași, Maramureș, Suceava, Târgu Mureș, Timisoara, and Tulcea). Programme activities include Romanian language classes, reducing language barriers, after-school and extra-curricular activities aimed at improving school integration, helping children with homework, providing financial support for school supplies, and promoting social cohesion and preventing bullying through targeted school interventions.
- World Vision supported over 1,300 refugee children through preschool and after-school programs run at eight "Happy Bubbles" socio-educational centres in six locations across the country. In the after-school program, social educators assist children requiring help with their homework and support with online classes. The program also includes life skills workshops such as arts and crafts, reading clubs, mathematics club, computer literacy, and English club. Pre-school activities focused on early childhood development programming with the aim to ensure that children acquire the basic concepts, skills, and attitudes required for successful learning and development. Romanian language lessons were also provided, promoting integration of Ukrainian children and their caregivers in the host community. All beneficiaries are equipped with educational kits to ensure they have all the necessary resources to keep up with their academic progress. 60 refugee children received support with formal Romanian educational activities (preschool, primary, secondary) in collaboration with the Finnish school in Bucharest and ACCB. In Constanța, remedial integration activities for Ukrainian children and host communities were implemented together with JRS through a mentorship and educational support program for Ukrainian children attending Romanian schools. The project teams implement activities in three schools benefiting

190 children (150 Ukrainian refugee children and 40 Romanian children) who receive support with Romanian language and mathematics, as well as with their integration in local schools.

- In Sibiu, Sus Inima ran the Sus Inima Programmes for Refugee Integration (SIPRI) 'Edu.Hub', a bridging programme supporting the progressive integration of Ukrainian refugee children in Romanian state schools, with additional language support for Ukrainian children and adults. The program covers remedial education, homework assistance, and extracurricular activities, promoting holistic child development. In January, 112 children and adolescents took part in Romanian language courses and education support activities, and 810 in play-based learning activities.
- CNRR provided counselling on access to education in Bucharest, Braşov, Constanţa, Galaţi, Iaşi, and Suceava. This includes assisting beneficiaries with school and kindergarten enrolment; the procedure of recognition and equivalence of studies and diplomas; translations of documents for vulnerable categories related to education, and referral to Romanian language courses and other educational activities. In January, CNRR distributed some 200 Romanian language learning manuals for Ukrainians to various educational organizations. CNRR began distribution of 2,400 books aimed at helping children learn Romanian and English through its field offices in Braşov, Constanţa, Galaţi, Iaşi, and Suceava to beneficiaries of temporary protection.
- Terre des Hommes (TdH) focused its efforts on various educational initiatives, including afterschool programs in Bucharest and Braşov. Resilience Innovation Facility (RIF) activities operated in Bucharest, Braşov, and Constanţa providing children opportunities to work with 3D printing, vinyl cutters, and other tools, all complemented with a MHPSS components. TdH also initiated the installation of a RIF in Baia Mare. Overall, 86 children participated in RIF (STEM) activities and about 100 children participated in TdH afterschool programs.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Most Ukrainian refugee children are now enrolled in Romanian schools while many continue their studies in the Ukrainian education system in parallel, including through online and home-schooling arrangements, or in education hubs. Significant language barriers remain, with still too few opportunities to access remedial Romanian language courses and adequate learning support materials in schools, which hinder children's effective participation at school.
- Romanian language courses for both children and adults remain critical to ensure social integration and smooth transition to the national education system. Their provision needs to be accelerated and sustained throughout the school year in coordination with county school inspectorates.
- Several communities and schools continue to express the need to assign cultural mediators (Ukrainian speaking educators who can facilitate communication with parents, children, and teachers) in schools to support the effective integration of Ukrainian refugee children in Romanian schools. Such arrangements could also help school communities improve social cohesion.
- Ukrainian refugee children, and youths in particular, have limited opportunities to engage with their Romanian peers, despite this being necessary to promote social cohesion and effective integration.
- There is still a shortage of places in creches and kindergartens, particularly full-day places in big cities, and in rural areas, where there are fewer kindergartens and no education hubs. This also affects job-seeking parents who cannot leave their children unattended.
- Diverse experiences are reported suggesting heterogeneous capacities in Romanian teachers, calling for additional efforts on teacher training, support, and supervision to ensure the effective integration of Ukrainian refugee children in general, and of those enrolling as audients in particular.
- More clarity in the procedures for certification and mutual recognition of studies is still expected. The mutual recognition of studies between Romania and Ukraine has been subject to a bilateral agreement which was signed in 2023.



Health and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- Significant information gaps remain for refugees seeking healthcare services which reduces their ability to navigate the health system and access care. These information gaps range from confusion regarding health entitlements, to limited understanding of how to enter the national health system. To address this issue, WHO cultural mediators provided information on healthcare rights and services to 53 Ukrainian refugees, accompanied refugees to medical appointments and directly scheduled specialist appointments.
- Access to primary care remains a priority for Ukrainian refugees. To facilitate primary care access for Ukrainian refugees, WHO Romania provides financial and administrative support to selected family medicine clinics in Bucharest, Brasov, Suceava and Galati, incentivizing their engagement in the refugee healthcare program. During this reporting period, WHO supported family doctors delivered 173 consultations to Ukrainian refugees. In parallel, AMI enrolled 90 refugees for family doctor services in Bucharest, supported 123 beneficiaries to access primary healthcare services and a further 174 to access specialised care. The organization also provided translation for 261 consultations at primary, secondary and tertiary care.
- Given the high proportion of women in the Ukrainian refugee population, easy access to sexual and reproductive healthcare is paramount. The WHO midwives located in Galați provided midwifery consultations for Ukrainian women throughout January and provided referrals to specialised care for 15 refugees.
- The Romanian National Alliance for Rare Diseases (RONARD) supports Ukrainian patients with rare diseases or disabilities through of case management according to their needs. In January, RONARD provided support to five beneficiaries with rare diseases and rare cancers and facilitated their access to care at the centres of expertise in Bucharest and Craiova.
- In response to the ongoing measles epidemic, WHO Romania launched a social media campaign in cooperation with UNICEF Romania between December 2023 and January 2024. The campaign highlighted, amongst other factors, the potential health risks and complications associated with contracting measles and the benefits of getting vaccinated. Communication assets from both agencies were translated into Romanian and Ukrainian and shared across UNICEF and WHO social media channels with an estimated reach of 115,000. The information was also shared by WHO cultural mediators via dedicated Ukrainian Telegram and social media channels with a total of 24,076 subscribers, to further enhance the dissemination of this valuable information. In parallel, WHO together with the Ministry of Health, launched a measles awareness campaign in Bucharest, Braşov and, Târgu Mures, the counties with the highest measles incidence and large Ukrainian populations. 50 posters and digital displays were displayed in highly visible areas throughout January 2024. In addition to the outdoor campaign, the media tiles and video were also shared on Ukrainian Telegram and social media channels.
- Low vaccination coverage remains a key issue among Ukrainian communities and has increased the community's vulnerability to measles infections. To address this issue, the WHO county team in Baia Mare and Târgu Mures launched a vaccination awareness campaign in December 2023 to promote vaccination uptake within the local and host refugee population. As of January 2023, over 5,000 refugees received informative flyers on the topic of vaccinations and preventable disease. AMI also promoted vaccination uptake, delivering information and online classes on measles vaccination to more than 2,000 parents and directly supported the delivery of vaccinations to 30 beneficiaries.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Refugees' access to healthcare and medicine is hindered due to lack of family doctors, language barriers, lack of awareness about refugee rights, and issues related to the health information system. Some refugees also reported being denied medication by pharmacies, despite having prescriptions from Romanian specialist and family doctors. An existing disagreement between the national health insurance system (CNAS) and medical service providers regarding the timely reimbursement of funds, accompanied by more systemic gaps in the national health system, aggravates the access of Ukrainian refugees to essential health services and consultations.
- WHO county coordinators highlighted persistent challenges regarding access to health services, including for routine medical care and treatments for pre-existing conditions. There is therefore a need for improved healthcare information, outreach programs, and coordination with healthcare providers to ensure that Ukrainian refugees have access to required medical services.
- WHO cultural mediators in Bucharest report that the registration status of some Ukrainian refugees continues to be invalidated on the national health insurance platform preventing them from receiving essential primary healthcare services and required medications.
- AMI reported that language barriers remain a serious challenge for refugees and there is a significant lack of interpretation services.



Basic Needs

Achievements and Impact

- Save the Children distributed 3,199 individual items such as hygiene, educational, baby, and recreational kits, to persons in need in Bucharest, Galați, Iași, Maramureș, and Suceava, addressing the immediate needs of those affected.
- Four Change Association provided counselling, information, and needs assessment services to Ukrainian refugees helping them to access social services, accommodation, community healthcare services according to the beneficiaries' needs and vulnerabilities. Counselling sessions were provided on alternative methods to support the payment of rent, on integration into the local community, and the prevention of dependence on social services. Requests were sent to the Directorate General for Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC) to obtain disabled classification certificates, and applications for emergency aid for mothers.
- World Vision Romania supported vulnerable Ukrainian refugees through its "Family Hygiene Kit and Food Voucher One Time Assistance" programme. 1,717 hygiene kits and 1,717 food vouchers were distributed to 4,164 beneficiaries at social stores in Bucharest (Romexpo hub) and Constanta (World Vision Constanta Social Store).
- On 17 January, UNHCR Romania supported a Department of Emergency Situations (DSU) contingency drill. The exercise was part of preparedness activities to ensure efficient response in emergencies and included testing the capacity to set up temporary shelters. The focus of the exercise was on setting up transit shelter facilities in Bacău and Galați counties by DSU using UNHCR shelter materials such as tents, generators, lighting systems, and heaters. Shelter sites were established on two football fields with the capacity of 240 persons each.
- UNHCR delivered 4,485 core-relief items (CRIs) including clothing, bedding, hygiene kits, and thermoses to more than 2,300 refugees from Ukraine in Bistrița, Brăila, Constanța, Galați, Constanta, Suceava, and Tulcea counties with the support of local departments for social assistance and NGO partners. Furthermore, UNHCR's Timisoara Field Unit also successfully delivered 264 hygiene kits, 120

beddings and 120 towels to DGASPC Timiș which will be distributed over time to 264 children, including unaccompanied and separated minors living in specialised placement centres.

- Save the Children Romania provided targeted financial assistance to 892 persons with specific needs, with each person receiving vouchers worth RON 720 (US\$ 159) to meet winter needs.
- On 15 January, UNHCR began registration for winter cash support. The program aims to support displaced refugee households with winter related needs targeting new arrivals, including those refugees that have not received similar assistance from other humanitarian agencies.
- UNHCR concluded the recalibration process for Cash for Protection vulnerability scorecard. The amendment of the Inter-Agency vulnerability assessment is ongoing. The enumerators receive training prior to the launch of the next iteration of the Cash for Protection Programme.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Extended delays in receiving financial assistance from the government assistance program make transition to independent living very difficult for Ukrainian refugees residing in collective centres. This aspect, together with seasonal challenges, exacerbate the existing vulnerability of refugees. There are significant challenges in term of accommodation solutions. Basic needs partners are working towards supporting accommodation facilities despite budgetary constraints. Basic needs partners commitment must remain resolute in ensuring that vulnerable refugee communities are not left behind.
- According to World Vision Romania, the number of households receiving basic needs support it is still below 100 per cent of those that have pre-registered online and were scheduled to come on social stores from Bucharest and Constanța. It is expected that in the coming months the number of those registering for basic needs support will increase. At the social store from Romexpo, run by World Vision's partner from General Assistance of Bucharest Municipality (DGASMB), there is still an acute need for in-kind food and hygienic items.



Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion

Achievements and Impact

- In the past month, seven employers and 91 refugee job seekers signed-up to Jobs for Ukraine's online platform (<https://jobs4ukr.com/>) which facilitates refugees' access to the labour market. 117 job applications were sent through the platform and 18 "matches" facilitated. The platform offers a job board with verified employers, online career counselling, and other relevant information and resources for job seekers.
- On 31 January, UNHCR together with Jobs for Ukraine, and representatives from the local employment agency (AJOFM) and the Directorate for Social Assistance (DAS) held an awareness session in Bistrița. The aim was to offer information on how to navigate the Services Advisor tool (www.romania.servicesadvisor.net) and access livelihoods-related support, including the AJOFM services and Jobs for Ukraine platform. 23 refugees participated in the event.
- World Vision continued to support refugees' access to the Romanian labour market through weekly vocational counselling and mediation services offered by the Star Shield project specialists. This month, over 50 job seekers attended counselling sessions in Bucharest, Cluj, Iași. On 11 January, World Vision hosted a job fair in Iași aimed at connecting refugee job seekers to potential employers, provide information about career opportunities in different sectors, and facilitate discussions on current labour market issues. In total, some 20 Ukrainian refugees, three employers and one representative from the local employment agency (AJOFM) were present.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- World Vision highlighted that the language barrier remains a key challenge faced by refugee job seekers in Romania, and that there is still a strong demand for Romanian language courses. Moreover, many single-parent job seekers need accessible and affordable daycare options and part-time job opportunities.

Cross-Cutting Priorities



Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

Achievements and Impact

- On the 7-8 December, IOM trained 32 representatives of the Romanian Orthodox Church, including priests serving communities in the north-east of Romania, to identify and assist victims of human trafficking and preventing sexual exploitation and abuse.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Securing funds is crucial to empower the 11 participants enrolled in Investigator Qualification Training Scheme (IQTS) Tier 2, facilitating their progression to Tier 3 and eventual certification as workplace administrative investigators. This request is of utmost importance to address the demand for skilled Romanian workplace administrative investigators and ensure justice for victims/survivors of SEAH and other forms of misconduct.



Youth and Adolescents

Achievements and Impact

- During January, Junior Achievement (JA) Romania delivered educational programs to Ukrainian and Romanian students delivered through hubs and schools. 15 Ukrainian teenagers living in Iași are currently involved in a Job Shadow Week, having already participated in JA career readiness workshops, all locally coordinated by Bethany Social Service Foundation. Additionally, YMCA engaged 30 Ukrainian and Romanian students in JA educational activities at its Baia Mare hub, as well as 30 local youth in rural Maramureș county. In school, Romanian JA network teachers continue to support integration of Ukrainian students in Iași and Bihor county.
- Romanian Angel Appeal ran activities at the Youth Hub with Ukrainian and Romanian youth providing open activities and life skills workshops. Young people have been trained and continued using U-Report and a GBV workshop was organised with NGO Necuvinte. Registrations opened for a new series of workshops on dance, music, photo and video, theatre, and upcycled fashion in context of the JoyLab project also supported by the European Youth Foundation. 26 youths registered as U reporters and 11 youths participated in the GBV workshop.



Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

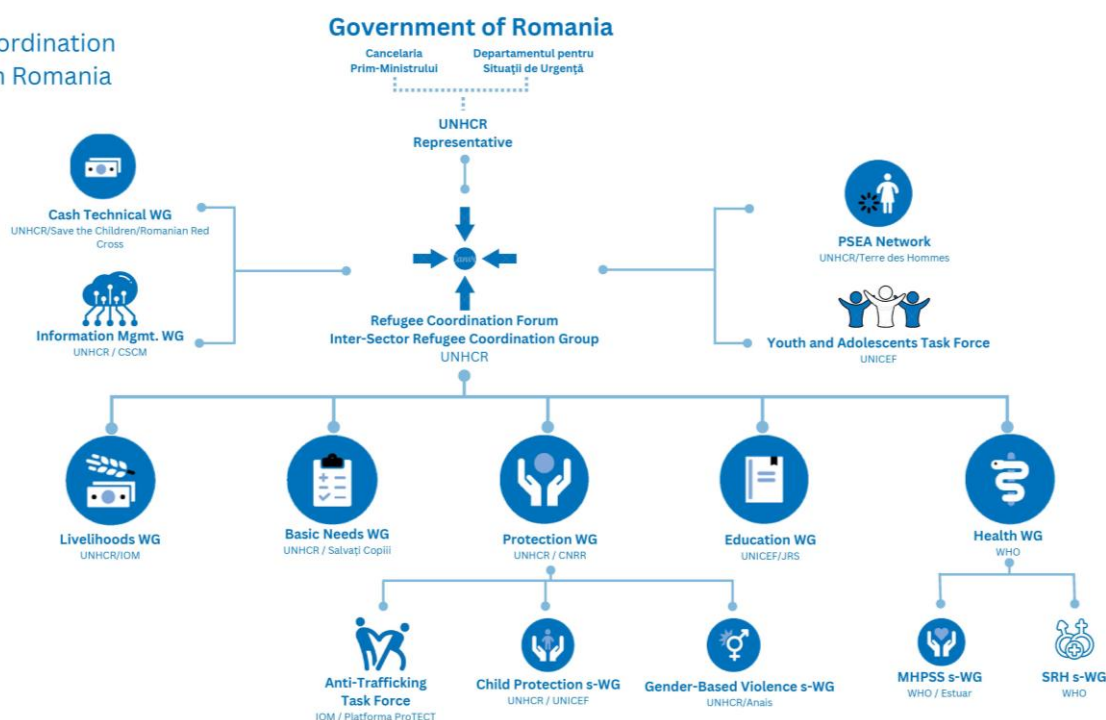
- Psychological support remains a key health need for Ukrainian refugees in Romania. During January, WHO cultural mediators delivered 64 individual counselling sessions and six group counselling sessions for 80 Ukrainian beneficiaries in Bucharest, Braşov, Cluj, Constanţa, and Târgu Mureş. WHO cultural mediators also organized three sessions of art therapy, attended by 18 beneficiaries. Activities such as these are highly effective at addressing stress and anxiety among the Ukrainian community.
- Save the Children Romania delivered MHPSS activities to Ukrainian refugees at counselling centres and transit points in Bucharest, Baia Mare, Braşov, Constanţa, Galaţi, Iaşi, Suceava, Timişoara, and Tulcea. In January, psychological counselling sessions were provided to 48 children and 90 adults, while social cohesion and psychosocial support activities targeted over 2,570 children and 201 adults through interactive workshops, arts and movement-based games, and community-building events.
- Furthermore, Save the Children held educational workshops on mental health for Ukrainian refugees, hosted by teams in Bucharest, Iaşi, Suceava, Timişoara, and Tulcea. These workshops, which were attended by over 102 children and 63 adults, covering key themes ranging from stress management strategies to guidance on family dynamics.
- TdH have been actively delivering MHPSS services in Bucharest, Baia Mare, Braşov, and Constanţa. In January 2024, group and individual MHPSS sessions were provided to 252 Ukrainian children.
- In January, Romanian Angel Appeal (RAA) conducted data collection regarding the MHPSS needs of children and adolescents in Bucharest. Within the project “Creation of a functional model intervention for Mental Health and Psychological Support - MHPSS for children and adolescents” funded by UNICEF, RAA in partnership with the Institute for the Study and Treatment of Trauma (ISTT) conducted 22 focus group discussions with Romanian and Ukrainian children, teenagers, parents, relatives, and education specialists as well as over 30 interviews with stakeholders and specialists from different sectors. RAA is also finalising the mapping of resources in MHPSS domain for children and adolescents in Bucharest.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- WHO cultural mediators reported that many beneficiaries still experience significant psychological distress and trauma resulting from witnessing war episodes and fleeing conflict zones. These issues have been compounded by anxiety around adapting to their new lives in Romania as well as managing cultural differences and language barriers. Greater emphasis should therefore be placed on the establishment of health services and support groups dedicated to addressing issues such as anxiety, depression, and PTSD.

Working in partnership

Refugee Coordination Structure in Romania



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LINKS

[Regional data portal – Romania Page](#) – [Ukraine Situation RRP](#) – [Refugee Funding Tracker](#)