



Romania

May 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 5.9 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.

KEY FIGURES*

5.94 M

individual refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe.

6.16 M

border crossings from Ukraine and Moldova into Romania.

163,298

obtained temporary protection in Romania.

70

percent of refugees are women and children.

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

USD 117 M

Romania financial requirements

USD 14,4 M

Funding received against the Appeal (Q1)

37

Appealing Partners 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, nearly 6 million people from Ukraine have sought refuge across Europe. As of 31 May 2024, border police recorded some 6.16 million border crossings from Ukraine and Moldova into Romania. 161,708 Ukrainians and 1,590 Third Country Nationals obtained temporary protection in Romania, which provides access to healthcare, education, and the labour market, representing a total increase of 3,340 compared to the end of April.

On 23 May, the Refugee Inclusion Working Group met in Suceava, with 25 participants from 15 organizations and government entities attended the meeting. The Working Group discussed safeguarding when making referrals, reviewed formal referral tools, and mapped refugee-relevant services.

During 9-10 May, training was held for the enumerators responsible for conducting data collection interviews with Ukrainian refugees for the Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS) 2024 (formerly known as the Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment). The training focused on a wide range of topics, including core protection considerations, interviews techniques, psychological first aid and referrals as well as methodological aspects. In the coming weeks,

RRP partner Novapolis – wide ranging assistance to refugees through the ROUA Centre.

The Novapolis Centre for Analysis and Initiatives for Development implements migration projects providing direct assistance and support services for Ukrainian refugees and third country nationals. Novapolis works directly with the community, stakeholders, decision-makers, experts and academia while advocating for a better coordinated humanitarian response towards solidarity and inclusive communities. The ROUA Centre in Constanța run by Novapolis was established within the ConstanțaAID4Ukrainians project: Help for Ukrainian refugees and third country nationals in Constanța and the south-east of Romania funded by Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe.



Since September 2022, Novapolis' ROUA Centre has assisted 2,275 Ukrainian refugees, including 675 so far this year. The ROUA Centre represents a reference community centre in Constanța and the south-east providing essential support for Ukrainians and a strong partner for local actors and institutions. The partnership between the Novapolis ROUA Centre and UNHCR Romania delivers integration assistance to Ukrainian refugees supporting their medium-to long term socio-economic inclusion by finding employment, entrepreneurship training, and piloting the set-up of businesses. Assistance provided by the centre includes quality protection services, lifesaving assistance, information, legal, psychosocial, economic inclusion, entrepreneurship, Romanian language, and integration support addressing the immediate needs of Ukrainian refugees, improving their well-being and preventing potential risks of exploitation and abuse. In addition, core relief items are distributed to the most vulnerable Ukrainian refugees to meet their basic needs. In addition, the ROUA Centre provides training for refugees in partnership with other NGOs such as Sensiblu Foundation on GBV, and public institutions on the pensions, taxes, and labour rights, and with healthcare specialists on reproductive rights, vaccinations, the public healthcare system, and baby care.

The project reinforces cooperation between civil society, public institutions, and relevant stakeholders delivering quality protection assistance for Ukrainian refugees and third country nationals through local community-based consultation mechanisms, advocacy actions, and capacity building initiatives targeting local and central stakeholders such as NGOs, public authorities, schools, private sector, academia.

20 staff from UNHCR, IOM and the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR) will collect data on livelihoods and employment situation of refugees from Ukraine. The final SEIS report will be published by the end of October 2024 to feed into the development of the RRP 2025.

A special joint meeting of the Basic Needs Working Group and the Inter-Sector Working Group on contingency planning took place on 17 May, focusing on the current operational context, contingency scenarios, and programming. Sector leads discussed their commitment to respond to the immediate needs of refugees through protection and health interventions, the distribution of core relief items (CRIs), supporting the functioning and maintenance of temporary shelters and safe spaces, multi-purpose cash assistance, food assistance, in-country transportation, support of child friendly centres in transit and permanent accommodation centres, and WASH provision to meet needs in the event of a surge in refugee arrivals.



Protection

Achievements and Impact

- On 16 May, Government Decision no. 505/2024 was adopted amending and supplementing normative acts on the content of the residence permit for the beneficiaries of temporary protection. Since its entry into force, on 17 May, the General Inspectorate for Immigration (GII) issues temporary protection residence permits with the residential address stated on the permit. It is also possible to issue a permit with a declared address only when no documents showing proof of address are available. In these cases, only the city/sector and county are given. The change is expected to have an important impact on temporary protection beneficiaries' access to social benefits and is the result of longstanding advocacy by protection actors. Procedures relating to applying for social benefits usually require the presentation of an identity document including an address.
- In May, Save the Children provided services to 3,348 children and adults from Ukraine at three border crossings, in Isaccea, Siret and Sighetu Marmăției, two transit points (Gara de Nord and Romexpo in Bucharest), at the country's six reception centres for asylum-seekers, and at integrated service and counselling centres. Assistance provided included information and legal counselling, access to accommodation, support to obtain temporary protection permits, applying for certificates to access the government support programme, registration with family doctors and access to the medical system, support for finding employment, mediation with employers, as well as translations for accessing services.
- CNRR counselled and assisted 830 holders of temporary protection with protection services including legal counselling, access to education, healthcare, and other socio-economic rights through accompaniment, translation, interpretation, and referrals. CNRR facilitated access to employment for holders of temporary protection by participating at official county employment fairs throughout the country. During these events CNRR assisted beneficiaries with job applications and recruitment processes and raised awareness among potential employers about the employment of holders of temporary protection and the procedures for hiring them. In addition, CNRR assisted approximately 1,600 people forcibly displaced by the armed conflict in Ukraine at border crossing points and reception centres with access documentation, related to legal stay, identity and civil status, and general access rights.
- UNHCR together with GII conducted a mission to the Reception Centre in Șomcuta Mare. The aim of the mission was to conduct participatory assessment with refugees and asylum-seekers hosted in the centre and assess quality of asylum-related decisions. Through the Participatory Assessment, UNHCR heard about the experience of the refugees and asylum seekers arriving in Romania, and their opinion regarding the living conditions and processing of their cases. The assessment showed that conditions at the centre are adequate, while there remains some room for improvement on refugees and asylum-seekers' access to accurate information on where to seek each of the services.
- UNHCR participated in a cross-border mission with UNHCR Serbia, which included a visit to the Lunga Border Crossing Point on the Romanian side of the border and to Krnjaca Asylum Centre near Belgrade. A meeting was also held between UNHCR, and the Romanian and Serbian partners involved in border monitoring, legal

aid, and integration programmes. An internal meeting was held between the two UNHCR teams to discuss border and asylum trends and dynamics and the overall focus of the two operations. Follow up meetings will be held between the two UNHCR teams to exchange further lessons learned in specific areas, such as community-based protection and integration.

- UNHCR participated in an awareness session in Constanța conducted as part of the campaign “Safety is a human right” conducted by the Romanian Police. The session was attended by 14 refugee women from Ukraine. During the session UNHCR provided information on prevention of and response to domestic violence, prevention of violence against children, trafficking in person, and street harassment. The Romanian Police shared information on various services provided by law enforcement to survivors of gender-based violence.
- UNHCR together with CNRR, hosted the second National Conference on Child Protection, titled “Together for the Protection of Unaccompanied and Separated Children” in Bucharest. The conference brought together some 50 organizations, including the national child protection authorities to address practical challenges in providing access to rights and services for unaccompanied and separated children in Romania.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- While the adoption of Government Decision No. 505/2024 is welcomed and seen as a potential route towards the integration of refugees from Ukraine in the Romanian state social protection system, there remains uncertainty regarding the resulting changes, as raised on social media and communication platforms used by Ukrainians in Romania. Doubts were raised by refugees on ways to prove their address, what will happen after the 180-day deadline and the meaning of the changes when it comes to accessing rights. These have been transmitted to the authorities by UNHCR and advocacy conducted for the issuance of a supporting Q&A document.
- Discussions in the Protection Working Group noted that the Government Decision has led to tensions between landlords and tenants. It has been reported that landlords have begun to demand higher rents from tenants who have asked for a rental contract registered with the tax authorities.
- In May, there were changes to legislation on conscription in Ukraine, notably the Law of Ukraine No. 3633-IX “On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine on Certain Issues of Military Service, Mobilisation and Military Registration” was adopted and entered into force on 18 May. The law amended a set of obligations for citizens regarding the mobilization process. Among other changes over recent months to conscription legislation, Ukrainian men of military age will have until 15 July to update their personal information at Territorial Recruitment and Social Support Centres. Men of draft-age who do not comply will not have access to most consular services. Protection actors discussed the impact of the changes on new arrivals from Ukraine and possible limitations on accessing rights in Romania for those without a valid Ukrainian ID document.



Child Protection

Achievements and Impact

- UNICEF in partnership with VIS, finalised the training of trainer’s program on the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) protocol for child friendly interviewing of children victims and witnesses of sexual crimes. The training program lasted 19 months and reached a team of six prosecutors from the Bucharest Prosecutor’s Office. Following hundreds of hearings and a tripling of the number of cases sent to court, hundreds of years of sentences have been handed down by the capital’s courts against sexual aggressors. The intervention is part of efforts to strengthen the justice system’s response to sexual violence against children, including refugee children.
- UNHCR and UNICEF continued advocacy and coordination with national and county authorities for the identification, registration and protection of unaccompanied and separated children evacuated from the

Ukrainian protection system. A special focus was on the provision of protection services in line with national legislation and international recommendations.

- UNHCR and CNRR held a conference entitled "Together for the Protection of Unaccompanied Children", which gathered representatives from various child protection-focused public authorities, international organizations, and NGOs. The conference aimed at addressing the vulnerabilities of unaccompanied and separated children and advocating for consistent legal application. Discussions focused on children seeking international protection and those displaced from Ukraine. The event emphasised the need for a comprehensive legislative framework and identified challenges and best practices related to education, interpretation services, family reunification, and psychosocial support.
- Terre des Hommes continued its work in Bucharest, Baia Mare, Braşov, and Constanţa, providing individual and group mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) sessions, inter-cultural and life skills activities, and tailored information and referral services. The Resilience Innovation Facilities (RIF) in these cities served as creative hubs, offering children opportunities for engagement with tools such as 3D printing. Across locations, 631 children participated in MHPSS sessions and intercultural learning, with 369 engaging in MHPSS activities at the RIFs. Additionally, 68 children received tailored information and referrals, while 51 children in Baia Mare received food and non-food support. Furthermore, 205 children received information on children's rights and accessing services in Romania through MHPSS activities.
- Save the Children assisted 1,228 children and 2,120 adults from Ukraine through integrated hubs and counselling centres in seven cities. The Safe Families program held sessions in multiple cities for 117 children and 84 parents. Topics covered in the children's sessions included: "being ourselves", "my body is mine", and "what is violence", with participants appreciating the opportunity for self-discovery and improving their communication skills.
- In May, World Vision reached over 1,100 Ukrainian refugee children with services at "Happy Bubbles" Socio-Educational Centres in six cities. The services included weekly activities focusing on child protection and MHPSS, as well as monthly sessions addressing issues such as discrimination and bullying. In addition, more than 80 parents and caregivers participated in MHPSS group sessions. Integration events involving over 830 Romanian and Ukrainian children promoted cross-cultural friendship. Case management activities supported 84 children, while parental support aimed to strengthen parent-child relationships.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There remains a need for improved access to medical and specialised psychological care for children.



Gender-Based Violence

Achievements and Impact

- In May, NGO Anaïs, in partnership with UNICEF, organized a guided tour and weekend workshop for women refugees from Ukraine, focusing on cultural orientation, community building, and mental well-being through art therapy, physical exercise routines, and skill-building activities. Anaïs also conducted informational sessions on gender-based violence (GBV), helping participants recognise abuse and access support services and legal rights. The NGO supports women and their children by providing emergency assistance, safe shelters, crisis intervention, and comprehensive counselling services to help survivors recover and regain their autonomy and confidence.
- Sensiblu Foundation focused on awareness and support for over 850 refugees and local community members through 40 group sessions in Bucharest, Baia Mare, Constanţa, Râmnicu Vâlcea, Sighetu Marmăţiei, and Suceava. The sessions covered a variety of topics, such as GBV, sexual exploitation and abuse, emphasising the importance of recognising abuse, seeking help, and understanding legal rights. Notably, five sessions

featured police officers providing practical and legal insights on GBV intervention. The "Safety is Everyone's Right" campaign continued to address domestic violence and human trafficking, with sessions in Suceava highlighting legal frameworks and practical steps for safety. Additionally, activities in Baia Mare and Râmnicu Vâlcea included discussions on community safety, cultural exchange, and individual counselling, leading to 30 new disclosures of abuse.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- GBV actors raised issues where additional support is required. These include increased awareness of human trafficking risks, additional education on recognising domestic violence, improved access to medical services and psychosocial counselling for GBV survivors and translation services at police stations.



Education

Achievements and Impact

- According to data provided by the Ministry of Education, 45,659 refugee children from Ukraine (RCU) are now (as of 27 May) recorded as officially enrolled in the Romanian education system, including 14,739 with full pupil status, and 24,458 children and youths with the transitional status of audient. 6,061 children are also registered in early childhood education and care institutions (at 'ante-preschool' level). Based on the [latest UNHCR data](#) on holders of temporary protection in Romania, this implies that 92 per cent of all refugee children from Ukraine, and about 71 per cent of the estimated school aged population of refugee children from Ukraine in Romania, are now enrolled with the Romanian education and early childhood education and care system (81 per cent for primary school aged children and 66 per cent for secondary school aged children respectively). Yet, only about one in four school-aged refugee children are fully enrolled as pupils in Romanian schools and enjoying the same benefits as their Romanian peers despite of the reform introduced by the Government in April 2023, making it mandatory for refugee children to enrol in Romanian schools or in informal education services available locally, in order to qualify for social benefits under the temporary protection scheme.
- According to the Ministry of Education, as of May only 31 per cent (14,073) of all refugee children enrolled with the Romanian education system are reported as effectively attending Romanian schools, illustrating difficulties in effective integration, and learning inclusion beyond school registration. The number of education hubs providing alternative or complementary learning opportunities - including remedial learning support and learning following the Ukrainian curriculum - and officially registered with the Ministry of Education has also decreased, from 73 in April to 53 in May, mainly due to funding constraints. In May, these hubs served some 8,659 refugee children from Ukraine. Overall, a significant proportion of children have started to attend Romanian schools, at least on an occasional basis and are participating in education hubs, online learning, and language courses in parallel, at least until they can master adequate Romanian language skills to engage in Romanian schools.
- Support continues to be provided to ensure that all refugee children from Ukraine can access quality education services and progressively integrate or transition to the Romanian education system, through diversified learning pathways and bridging modalities including or combining inclusion into Romanian schools, online learning, special classes and after-school activities offering learning support ('education hubs'), and by facilitating access to Romanian language training to support their integration and transition to the national education system. Refugee Response Plan (RRP) partners continue to facilitate access to classroom-type education encouraging face-to-face learning and personal interactions, as well as Romanian language courses, MHPSS and activities fostering local integration, and only provide access to online learning (in a complementary or alternative manner) as a last resort. Most RRP partners offering alternative or complementary learning support through education hubs increasingly require, and facilitate in most instances, the registration of refugee children with the Romanian education system and their participation in Romanian

language classes, preparing them for progressive integration into the national education system. Many education hubs have also adjusted their operations as complementary afterschool activities enabling children to attend Romanian schools in the morning.

- In May, RRP partner efforts continued to focus on local and national coordination, on facilitating increased access to Romanian language courses and organizing Romanian language certification together with local authorities, on identifying options for refugee children having difficulty enrolling and participating fully in local Romanian schools, and on facilitating access to alternative or complementary learning modalities when necessary. RRP partners focused technical support and advocacy efforts on national authorities, including support for the registration and transition of refugee children to Romanian schools in time for the next academic year.
- UNICEF continued to engage with several county school inspectorates and local NGOs to ensure continuity of education support services, including through partnership agreements to help prolong the operations of education hubs at least until the end of the current academic year and to advocate for the organization of additional Romanian language courses under the leadership of county school inspectorates to meet the growing demand. Through dedicated support extended to the Bucharest Municipal School Inspectorate and the Education Desk at Romexpo, an additional 822 enrolment requests were processed for Bucharest alone in May (representing an increase of about 30 per cent compared to April). UNICEF's partnership agreements with JRS Romania, FITT, PATRIR, Step-by-Step, CREIS, and Sus Inima continued to help deliver complementary and alternative education services in cities hosting large refugee communities, including through hubs, benefiting several thousands of Ukrainian refugee children with continued support towards progressive integration in Romanian schools and a stronger focus on Romanian language courses. Furthermore, UNICEF supported the operations of 27 play and learning groups for children of preschool age, including in collaboration with the NGO Step-by-Step.
- World Vision implemented educational activities at nine socio-educational centres ("Happy Bubbles", located in Bucharest, Cluj, Constanța, Iași, Râmnicu Vâlcea, and Suceava) for more than 1,500 children. The educational programme focused on preschool activities for children aged between three and six years old. The programme encompasses both early childhood development and after-school activities, with the former focusing on homework support, catch-up classes, remedial classes and assistance with accessing online classes. It covers a range of non-formal education activities, including the development of life skills through reading clubs, English clubs, storytelling sessions, speech development sessions, mentorship for teenagers, arts and crafts workshops, financial education, and sports activities. Additionally, MHPSS and integration activities are incorporated into the centres' monthly schedule. The provision of weekly Romanian language lessons continued, with four hours of lessons per week providing educational support for refugees who were experiencing difficulties with the language barrier with the aim of facilitating their integration into the host community and local schools. World Vision supported the delivery of formal Romanian educational activities (preschool, primary and secondary) dedicated to refugee children enrolled at the Romanian-Finnish School in Bucharest, through the local partner the Christian Bucharest Association Centre, and remedial activities at three schools in Constanța through local partner JRS. In Bucharest, two educational centres were opened: an after-school programme at the UTCB Shelter and informal workshops at Romexpo "Happy Bubbles" centre. The children are provided with hot meals and snacks at all locations, as well as educational materials, in order to facilitate their active participation and inclusion in school and after-school programmes.
- JRS, with financial support from UNICEF, helped more than 1,400 children in 14 educational hubs in Bucharest, Brașov, Constanța, Galați, and Mediaș engaging 90 Ukrainian refugee teachers. Support provided additional Romanian language classes to children and adults through 10 dedicated language teachers. Six psychologists provided support in mediating school-related issues among children, parents, and teachers in Bucharest, Brașov and Constanța. In Constanța, with financial support from World Vision, JRS provided remedial integration activities for both refugee and host communities through a mentorship and educational support program for Ukrainian children attending Romanian schools. The activities supported more than 350 children (equally distributed among Ukrainian refugee children and Romanians) at three schools; they received support with Romanian language and mathematics, as well as with integration in local schools. More than 600 questionnaires were applied to assess the educational needs at the local level. The results were presented during an event organized on 27 May together with the county school inspectorate (ISJ Constanța) called

“Together for inclusion, diversity and success in education” involving more than 30 specialists in the areas of education, integration, and social services. Intermediate English courses were also held in Constanța for 15 teenagers. Under the renowned Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award scheme, 22 adolescents attended various skills development activities. On 8 May, participants of the program, accompanied by their leaders from JRS, participated in a camp in Sovata. Additionally, JRS held a series of peer-to-peer meetings with students who have enrolled at universities during which they shared their experiences on the admissions process with Ukrainian students and their parents. A UNESCO-funded project ran workshops on traditional Ukrainian painting and a master class on various Ukrainian traditions.

- Terre des Hommes continued its work in Bucharest and Brașov, as well as in Constanța together with its partner the Civic Resource Centre and in Baia Mare with City Makers. Activities consisted of individual and group MHPSS sessions, school inclusion support and intercultural and life-skills development, adapted information, referral, case management and individual protection assistance. In Brașov, activities focused on different aspects including RIF-related activities, psychosocial support sessions, school inclusion support and intercultural and life-skills development, as well as individual protection assistance. Overall, 184 children have benefited from intercultural learning and life skills activities in the RIFs, centres and schools with TDH’s support in May.
- CNRR has continued to offer counselling on access to education in Bucharest, Brașov, Constanța, Galați, Iași, and Suceava. Refugees were assisted with the school and kindergarten enrolment process; the recognition and equivalence of studies and diplomas; and referral to Romanian language courses and other educational activities.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The Romanian educational system is experiencing significant challenges in its efforts to fully integrate refugee children, especially as new enrolments continue to increase. These challenges include limited capacity for places, difficulties in the transition from audient to pupil status, a lack of teachers’ preparedness to accommodate refugees, the need for Ukrainian cultural mediators to facilitate integration and learning, and continuing language barriers.
- NGOs encounter significant challenges in maintaining financial support from donors and the uncertainty of sustaining the support of educational hubs. RRP partners are facing serious difficulties to secure funding for continuing their operations beyond the current school year, with the risk of having to discontinue the provision of services from September 2024 onwards unless additional resources can be mobilised in the next few months or if such services can be progressively transferred and sustained through national or public authorities.
- If increasing numbers of Ukrainian refugee children are now enrolling in Romanian schools, many continue to follow the Ukrainian curriculum in parallel, including through online and home-schooling arrangements, or in education hubs, at least until they can acquire sufficient communication skills in Romanian language. Significant language barriers remain, with still too few opportunities to access Romanian language courses and adequate learning support materials through county school inspectorates, hindering children’s effective integration and participation in local schools.
- Numerous issues and questions regarding enrolment procedures for the next school year are yet to be addressed both at national and local levels. Parents and caregivers will receive adequate and timely information in order to consider the best options for their children.
- Several communities and schools continue to express the need to assign school or 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. The further involvement of Ukrainian refugee educators in the educational process is considered crucial for integration into host education system, however it requires further financial assistance, as well as increased communication and joint trainings with Romanian teachers.
- There remains a shortage of places in creches and kindergartens in big cities as well as in rural areas, where there are less kindergartens and no education hubs. This also affects parents who are looking for jobs because they cannot leave their children unattended.

- Diverse experiences are reported suggesting varied capacities among Romanian teachers and the need for additional efforts on teacher training, support, and supervision to ensure the effective integration of Ukrainian refugee children in general, particularly those enrolled as students.



Health and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- A 3-day WHO workshop “Doing What Matters in Times of Stress” was held in Iași and attended by 84 participants from Vaslui County Emergency Hospital, Regional Institute of Oncology, and Saint Maria Children Emergency Hospital. The WHO series aimed to equip healthcare workers with practical strategies and skills to conduct conflict-free dialogues, manage stress effectively, and maintain well-being in high-pressure environments, resulting in continued high quality care to Ukrainians and Romanians alike.
- On 14-15 May, a two-day training of trainers was held for nine Romanian health professionals on the effective management of GBV survivors. The course, supported by WHO, enhanced participants’ understanding of clinical-legal frameworks and how to develop health facility protocols and WHO protocols for the clinical management of rape and intimate-partner violence. Further trainings will be rolled out over the coming months, further capacitating the Romanian health system to support both Ukrainian and Romanian survivors of GBV.
- UNICEF continued its capacity-building on perinatal care, immunisation, interpersonal communication, and GBV for health care professionals in areas with a high density of Ukrainian refugees, including Bucharest, Botoșani, Brașov, Craiova, and Oradea, with UNICEF and the Independent Midwives Association distributing materials to support these initiatives. The Independent Midwives Association also oversees a widely recognised call-centre that helps Ukrainian refugees to access and register in the national health system and to further integrate into Romanian society.
- Language barriers represent the single biggest barrier to healthcare access for Ukrainians living in Romania, limiting their ability to explain health issues to Romanian providers, request necessary care or provide consent for medical procedures. Language barriers have frequently been cited as the main reason for medical providers not treating refugees. To address this issue, WHO recently established a health translation hotline providing Ukrainians in Romania with free over the phone interpretation for medical consultations. In May 2024, the hotline provided translation support to 89 Ukrainians, more than double compared the previous, first month, with a total call time of over 1,150 minutes (about 38 hours). It is expected that as awareness of the initiative grows, service uptake will continue to increase.
- Access to primary care remains a priority for Ukrainian refugees in Romania. To address this need WHO Romania provides financial and administrative support to selected family medicine clinics in Bucharest, Brașov, Cluj, Constanța, Galați, and Suceava, and to ensure refugee access to primary healthcare services. During the reporting period, WHO-supported family doctors delivered 292 consultations to Ukrainians, with over 5,100 consultations provided since January 2023.
- Psychological support remains a crucial health need for Ukrainian refugees in Romania. In May, WHO cultural mediators in Bucharest, Cluj, and Constanța facilitated six psychosocial group sessions for 17 Ukrainian refugees and 77 individual psychosocial sessions for those in need of more personalised support. In addition, 15 art and music therapy sessions were attended by 87 Ukrainians. These activities have been highly effective in addressing stress and anxiety and promoting community cohesion.
- Significant information gaps persist for refugees seeking healthcare services, impacting their ability to navigate the Romanian health system and access care. In May, WHO cultural mediators offered personalised advice and guidance to 51 Ukrainians on how to access primary and specialist care. A further 79 beneficiaries were assisted with scheduling doctor’s appointments, and 66 patients were accompanied to medical consultations.
- In Galați, the WHO midwife continued to provide support to refugee women, facilitating referrals to obstetric and gynecological care for 26 women.

- From 22-24 May, WHO Romania held a three-day training on GBV prevention and empowerment through self-defence, a comprehensive, evidence-based program for violence prevention which takes a holistic approach to self-defence, personal safety, and empowerment. Created in response to high GBV incidences in conflict settings, the trainings are a strategic activity to discuss GBV risks in community settings.
- UNICEF supports the delivery of primary health care services in public health facilities and through implementing partners. Some 1,328 children and women were reached with primary health care services. 94 children have been immunised through implementing partners, and over 673 children and caregivers received infant and young child feeding, counselling, and information through UNICEF supported mechanisms in Bucharest and in Ilfov county. The national health insurance service is promoting the rights to healthcare for Ukrainian refugees in Romania, with the help of UNICEF. Since the beginning of the year, over 14,000 parents and child guardians are being reached with health information and health promotion services.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Significant technical issues with using the E-PAS system have been reported to WHO by partnering family doctors. According to reports, the system is only working for Romanian patients. The inability of family doctors to use the system to register consultations with Ukrainian refugees has greatly impeded provision of health services to refugees. WHO has sent a letter to the national health insurance service to flag the issue.



Basic Needs

Achievements and Impact

- In May, World Vision continued its “Family Hygiene Kit and Food Voucher One-Time Assistance” programme for vulnerable Ukrainian refugees. 655 hygiene kits and 654 food vouchers were distributed in Bucharest (at the Romexpo hub) and Constanța (at the World Vision Constanța Social Store) to 1,515 persons in need. Out of a total of 11,531 kits and vouchers provided through the project, some 3,047 kits and vouchers will be distributed to vulnerable families from the host community.
- UNHCR is assessing its cash assistance programme for refugees with specific needs. The four-month cash assistance programme targets the most vulnerable refugees and aims to enable refugees to cope with basic and other needs. UNHCR assessed over 2,500 vulnerable households throughout the country using the Inter-Agency vulnerability scorecard. During May, UNHCR provided cash assistance to some 880 vulnerable forcibly displaced persons from Ukraine.
- From 13 May to 23 May, UNHCR and partners distributed nearly a thousand core-relief items (CRIs), including thermoses, hygiene kits, kitchen utensils set, children’s clothing, body towels, and bed linen sets to nearly 500 refugees living in Constanța, Galați and Năvodari. On 27 May, UNHCR FO Suceava, in coordination with authorities and support from the refugee volunteers, distributed nearly 1,000 CRIs, including clothes, blankets and sanitary kits to over 220 refugees from Ukraine, mostly women and children in Bistrița. In addition, UNHCR distributed around 1,000 CRIs to over 150 refugees in Brăila, Constanța, Galați, and Tulcea. So far in 2024, UNHCR has distributed 42,858 CRIs to 23,987 refugees in Romania.
- During the reporting period, the NGO 4 Change conducted a series of initiatives aimed at supporting Ukrainian refugees with the focus on supporting refugees’ access to medical services within the community and their access to social support.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- RRP partners have been raising concerns related to collective accommodation centres. Currently, the key issues faced by beneficiaries in the UTCB and Edmond Nicolau collective centres are related to upcoming legislative changes of the government assistance programme. Their outlook is uncertain, as it is unknown which centres will

remain open due to funding constraints. The lack of financial resources and legislative uncertainties hinder the delivery of high-quality accommodation services.



Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion

Achievements and Impact

- On May 16-17, UNHCR together with World Vision, Project Voyager, CNRR and AidRom supported the participation of over one hundred refugees in job fairs organized by the national employment agency (ANOFM) in various counties across Romania including Bucharest, Braşov, Cluj, Constanţa, Galaţi, Iaşi, Ilfov, Suceava and Timișoara. The partners assisted with translation, facilitated introductions to employers and carried out various job readiness activities to maximize the effectiveness of the fairs.
- Project Voyager continues to support refugees access to the labour through their online job platform (www.jobs4ukr.com) which had 426 unique visitors in May. During the reporting period, 142 new job seekers registered on the platform, 299 job applications were sent and 66 “matches” with employers were facilitated. The team also carried out 128 counselling sessions offering personalised guidance to support refugee job seekers in navigating the Romanian job market, creating their CVs and preparing for interviews.
- As of 31 May, over 800 refugee job seekers have been enrolled for Romanian language courses offered by UNHCR through International House. The language courses are coupled with job readiness activities and counselling to enhance the employability of participants.
- World Vision continues to provide holistic employment assistance for refugees in Romania, including CV-building support, employment counselling, psychosocial support, and various job readiness activities. As of May, over 800 individuals were enrolled in their livelihoods project across six counties (Bucharest, Braşov, Cluj, Constanţa, Iaşi, and Suceava).
- On 31 May, UNHCR, World Vision and the National Centre for Equivalence and Recognition of Diplomas (CNRED) held an online information session for 120 Ukrainian refugees on the procedure for the equivalence and recognition of studies in Romania.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- On 9 May, UNHCR and World Vision with the support for Terre de Hommes held an online workshop for Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion Working Group members focused on discussing advocacy issues related to refugees’ economic inclusion in Romania. Some key challenges and advocacy points were raised including the need for further guidance on the process for refugees to start-up a business in Romania; the legal uncertainty regarding double taxation for Ukrainian refugees who are working or running a business in Romania; the need for further information and a harmonised process for getting qualifications from non-EU countries recognised and equivalated; and the need to make public employment services more accessible for non-Romanian speakers.

Cross-Cutting Priorities



Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

Achievements and Impact

- Within the scope of the Refugee Response Plan, members of the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) network mapped current reporting mechanisms and developed a dashboard with the information readily available for beneficiaries in Romania. The dashboard will be used in awareness-raising sessions for the public on how to report cases of sexual exploitation and abuse.
- On 29 May, as part of the efforts to raise awareness on protection-related topics among forcibly displaced populations, UNHCR held a session focusing on PSEA at the Romexpo service hub. Participating refugee women inquired about UNHCR's mandate and learnt about their right to be protected against any humanitarian actor asking for favours or services in exchange of assistance. An additional session on digital safety was delivered on 31 May. Complementary to this, UNHCR participated in a training on awareness raising on trafficking related matters conducted by the NGO eLiberare, which will guide further sessions to be conducted among forcibly displaced populations.
- During May, NGO Parentis held a refresher training on PSEA for 12 staff members at the refugee centre in Iași.
- WHO's regional bureau assessed GBV and PSEA awareness levels on the social media platform Telegram, focusing on public knowledge with findings indicating a good level of PSEA knowledge in Romania. IOM is currently testing a focus group discussion guide on PSEA messaging with communities.
- Sensiblu Foundation and UNHCR trained 13 volunteers in Suceava on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), ensuring participants were well-prepared for community events.
- The Independent Midwives Association is planning several trainings for young people and social protection system on PSEA. Furthermore, trainings with doctors and midwives including an SEAH component are planned in Bucharest, Brașov, Craiova, Iași, Oradea, and Târgu Mureș.



Youth and Adolescents

Achievements and Impact

- In May, the Youth and Adolescents Task Force focused on programmatic documents and an open call related to youth services. Key discussions included a review of a work plan and a PR draft, with an emphasis on advocacy and lobbying activities. An action plan for the next six months, featuring bi-monthly activities and dialogues with government bodies, along with a training workshop for NGO staff was also discussed. Several points were made about the importance of engaging adolescents directly and suggested establishing a connection with the relevant minister.



Trafficking in Persons

Achievements and Impact

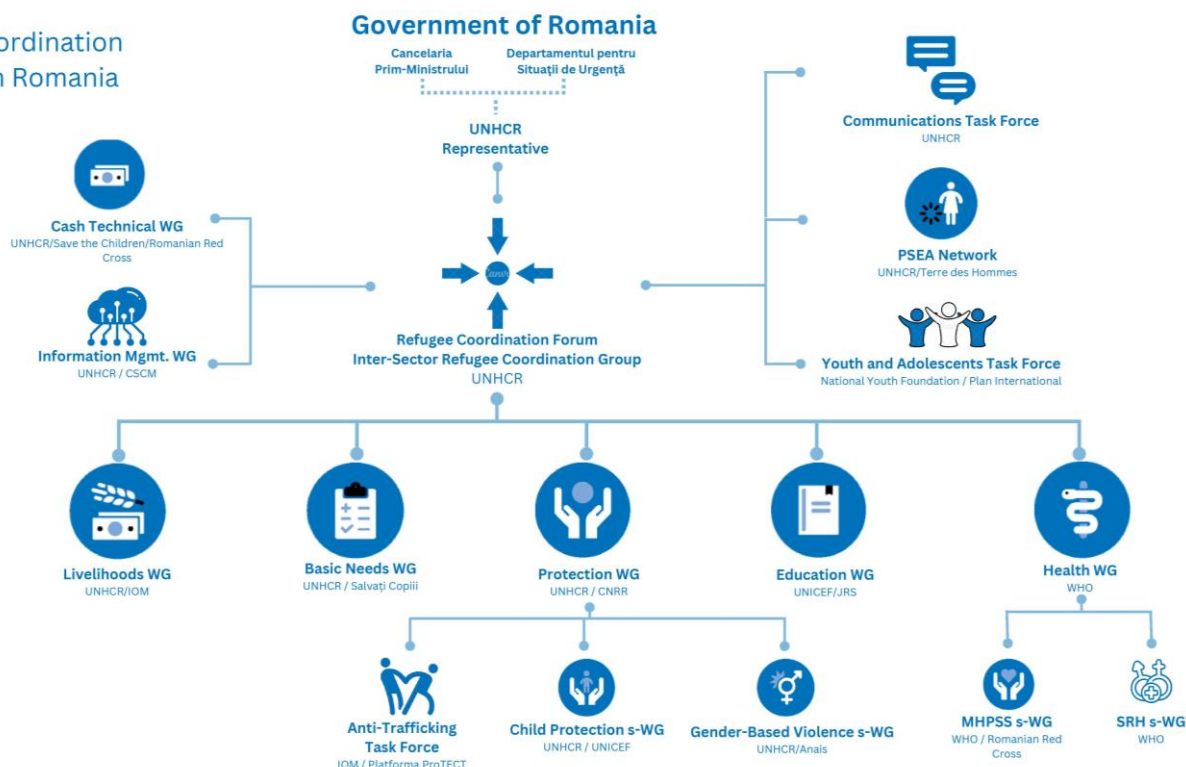
- In May, the Crisis Response Anti Trafficking Task Force (CRATTF) discussed priorities, trends and areas of concerns, and developed a draft plan for the task force's activity encompassing priorities identified by members and addressing needs and gaps.
- IOM delivered five capacity training sessions on counter trafficking on indicators and responses to trafficking in persons in Bucharest, Braşov, and Cluj for staff and associated personnel. IOM also delivered several sessions on associated protection topics.
- NGO eLiberare participated at a national conference entitled "Together for Unattended Minors Protection" organized by CNRR and UNHCR. Participants discussed the new legislation on the protection and assistance for unaccompanied children and a guide for unaccompanied children in Romania was launched.
- eLiberare developed materials for refugees on accessing jobs, and about rights and responsibilities for employees and employers in Romania, including safety measures to adopt and red flags that might indicate a suspicious employment offer. Online materials were created and distributed via social media platforms and through schools, community leaders, as well as teachers, with some 15,673 people reached in May. eLiberare worked with the [Jobs4Ukraine](#) online platform to promote safe jobs and to help people prepare CVs. The NGO also reads and translates employment and rental contracts to ensure that rights are respected. 17 persons received counselling or support during the reporting period. eLiberare also identified NGOs working with Ukrainian refugees and Ukrainian educational hubs, holding capacity-building training with them on conducting risk assessments to identify potential risks or cases of trafficking in persons.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In May, the CRATTF conducted a mapping exercise to identify needs and remaining gaps identifying the following areas:
 - Labour exploitation and lack of information regarding employee rights leading to increased risks.
 - Lack of information regarding rental procedures and rights.
 - Impact of Romania's admission to the Schengen Area and lifting of controls at air and sea borders and the increased ease of transporting victims of trafficking to Western Europe.
 - The need for increased information regarding social and humanitarian services which are better advertised and promoted through official sources and the avoidance of extortion schemes.
 - Increased levels of domestic abuse have been identified.
 - There is increased risk to displaced women and girls of sexual exploitation.
 - Online grooming and exploitation through internet and social media platforms of Ukrainian refugee children and youths.

Working in partnership

Refugee Coordination Structure in Romania



In 2024, the Inter-Agency platform comprises of the following 37 appealing partners implementing humanitarian activities in Romania for refugees from Ukraine:

ActionAid International | Action Contre la Faim | Asociația Moașelor Independente | CNRR | CORE | eLiberare | FONSS | Four Change | Good Neighbours Japan | Habitat for Humanity | HEKS/EPER | HIAS | IOM | Jesuit Refugee Service | Migrant Integration Centre Brașov | National Youth Foundation | Necuvinte | Novapolis | ParentIS | Project Voyager | PATRIR | Plan International | Roma Just | Romanian Angel Appeal | Save the Children | SECS | Sensiblu Foundation | Sera | Sus Inima | Terre des Hommes | Tineri pentru Tineri | UNESCO | UNFPA | UNICEF | UNHCR | WHO | World Vision

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LINKS

Regional data portal – Romania Page – Ukraine Situation RRP – Refugee Funding Tracker