



# Romania

June 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\*

**5.99 M**

individual refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe.

**6.5 M**

border crossings from Ukraine and Moldova into Romania.

**167,947**

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 34,3 M**

Funding received against the Appeal (Q2)

**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 30 June 2024, border police recorded some 6.5 million border crossings from Ukraine and Moldova into Romania. 166,335 Ukrainians and 1,612 Third Country Nationals obtained temporary protection in Romania, which provides access to healthcare, education, and the labour market, representing a total increase of 4,649 compared to the end of May.

On 14 June, RRP partners attended a Working Session on Funding and Fundraising. Over 30 organisations attended the event in Bucharest and partners received information on various fundraising tools and strategies to support the refugee response. The event comprised of sessions led by staff of the Ministry of Investment and European Projects, embassies, AmplifyONG, Asociația pentru Relații Comunitare (ARC) and Fonduri-Structurale.ro. The event was organized to address the funding shortfalls faced by RRP partners against the US\$ 117 million financial requirement of the 2024 RRP in Romania.

On 19 June, the Prefecture of Brasov County, together with the UNHCR in Romania, hosted the launch event of the Working Group for Refugee Inclusion in Brasov County together with over 40 participants from civil society and local government. During the event, a collaboration protocol was signed between the Prefect's Institution and UNHCR.

On 20 June, the RRP partners marked World Refugee Day with numerous public events highlighting the plight of refugees. The same day, the [Civil Society Gala](#), which promotes the activity of the non-profit and non-governmental sector in Romania was held in Bucharest. On behalf of the RRP, UNHCR's Representative in Romania, Mr. Pablo Zapata, presented the Hope Away from Home special prize to the Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations for Children (FONPC) for their Help-to-Help Ukraine initiative. The following day, RRP partners met with UNHCR's

### RRP partner 4Change – helping vulnerable refugees living in collective centres.

*Of the approximately 5.9 million refugees who have entered Europe since the start of the armed conflict in Ukraine, a significant portion arrived in and transited through Bucharest, where they sought accommodation in transit centres specifically set up to support Ukrainian refugees. The 4Change Association has supported Ukrainian refugees from the beginning through direct involvement at the UTCB refugee transit centre, and Dormitory C2, subsequently expanding its counselling and information activities to the Edmond Nicolau centre. All those housed in the transit centres are vulnerable persons, their needs being extremely difficult to meet. However, 4Change has always tried to provide support by finding concrete and sustainable solutions to problems or providing referral pathways to other service providers. From the start of the conflict until now 4Change has supported approximately 2,300 beneficiaries at the UTCB centre, including 150 in 2024 with services such as counselling and information, protection, educational services for adults and children, and distribution of core relief items.*



*Among the refugees assisted by 4 Change is Hiola, a young mother who has been housed at a collective centre since September 2022 together with her sisters. She is registered as a person with disabilities. Recently, Hiola gave birth to a baby girl named Yasmine who was born prematurely. Yasmine requires constant monitoring as she was diagnosed with hypoxia at birth and also shows symptoms of a possible neurological condition. 4Change supported Hiola through the process of registering her child with a family doctor necessary to access medical care and vaccinations. Hiola is worried about the future of her uncertain situation, meanwhile 4 Change ensures that she and her child receive proper care.*

Regional Director for Europe, Philippe Leclerc and the Director of UNHCR's Division of Strategic Planning and Results, Ms. Ritu Shroff at a special meeting of the Inter-Sector Working Group. During the meeting views were exchanged on maintaining a sustainable response in support of Ukrainian refugees.



## Protection

### Achievements and Impact

- On 28 June, the Government of Romania issued an Emergency Ordinance (EO) on humanitarian support and assistance by the Romanian State to foreign citizens or stateless persons in special situations coming from the area of the armed conflict in Ukraine. The EO establishes a new assistance programme available to new arrivals during their first three months of stay. The former assistance programme ceases to exist. The EO specifies that those who arrived in the Romania in the past or those that have stayed more than three months should be able to access the same social benefits as Romanian citizens, including state allowance for children, minimum income for inclusion, unemployment allowance, disability allowance, and monthly child benefit. The Prime Minister provided policy guidance, including through a public statement on 17 May, confirming that the government will continue to assist refugees from Ukraine and foster their inclusion. Protection actors have advocated with the Government for inclusion of vulnerable refugees from Ukraine in Romania's social service system to ensure a sustainable response, including through meetings, drafting of legal opinions, and participation in working groups.
- Following the adoption of Government Decision No. 505/2024 *"on the amendment and completion of some normative acts on the content of the residence permit for beneficiaries of temporary protection"* on 17 May, UNHCR worked jointly with the General Inspectorate for Immigration (GII) to develop a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) regarding the new residence permits for holders of temporary protection, offering support with translation and dissemination of answers. On 21 June, the answers to the FAQs were published on GII's official website with translations into English and Ukrainian provided by UNHCR. UNHCR continues to work with authorities to disseminate information which has also been presented at the monthly meeting of the Protection Working Group.
- The June meeting of the Protection Working Group focused on the new format of the temporary residency permit as well as on the new European Union Pact on Migration and Asylum and its implementation in Romania. Most actors are still coming to terms with the ten highly complex pact files. Both positive aspects as well as areas of concern of the files were discussed with mandatory border procedures as well as a well-functioning and independent monitoring mechanism being identified as some of the key concerns and issues.
- In June, protection actors marked the World Refugee Day (20 June) in Bucharest, Braşov, Cluj, Constanţa, Galaţi, Giurgiu, Iaşi, Maramureş, Piteşti, Rădăuţi, Sibiu, Suceava, Târgu Mureş, and Timișoara through a series of cultural events, workshops, games and sports activities, street-art, and photography and digital illustration exhibitions. The participants of these events recognised the importance of solidarity and support that a community can offer to those fleeing war and persecution.
- Save the Children provided services to 2,892 children and adults from Ukraine at Isaccea, Sighetu Marmăției, and Siret border crossing points, two transit points and at reception, integration, and counselling centres. Services delivered included information and legal counselling, accommodation support, support to obtain temporary protection residence permits, support to obtain certificates giving access the government support programme, support for registering with family doctors and accessing the medical system, support for integration in the labour market, mediation between employees and employers, accompanying and language support (translations) for accessing services provided by other organisations and institutions. Specific information sessions were held on the new format of the residency permit.
- UNHCR counselled 1,081 callers through its hotline. UNHCR also provided awareness raising sessions on different topics including GBV and services provided through its Romexpo Service Hub to 49 people. 17 protection staff received training on international protection, the national asylum system, and refugee status determination.

## Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- While the adoption of Emergency Ordinance No. 96/2024 “regarding the granting of humanitarian support and assistance by the Romanian state to foreign citizens or stateless persons in special situations, coming from the area of the armed conflict in Ukraine” was welcomed by many and seen as the route towards the integration of refugees from Ukraine in the Romanian state social protection system, a number of instruments (e.g. Government decisions, ministerial orders) are to be adopted in the 15-30 days following adoption of the EO with a view to ensuring its effective implementation. Protection actors are carrying out advocacy regarding the contents and design of these instruments.
- Regarding the assistance programme which came to an end in June, beneficiaries reported still waiting for payments and a backlog of payments going back many months.
- Vulnerable persons among temporary protection holders, such as older people, persons with disabilities, and single-parent families, have reported struggling to find accommodation for rent due to the rising cost of rent and the difficulties securing employment.
- Beneficiaries who want to change their residential address on their temporary protection permit face difficulties including the full address if they have a rental contract with a private company. Romanian law does not require companies to register their rental contracts with ANAF.



## Child Protection

### Achievements and Impact

- In June, UNHCR and Terre des Hommes organized a roundtable on “*Young Refugees Want to Make Their Voices Heard in School and the Community: How Do We Support Them?*” attended by 30 participants, including representatives of child protection NGOs, local authorities, and student councils. The event focused on challenges faced by young refugees in schools and communities with discussions centred on enhancing their participation in decision-making processes. Child Advisory Board members from Bucharest, Braşov, and Constanţa shared successful integration programs, highlighting activities that engage refugee children and promote language skills and public speaking. The event underscored the importance of supporting young refugees and amplifying their voices in educational and community contexts.
- UNICEF together with NGO ANAIS presented the results of the consultations with adolescent Ukrainian girls on their perceptions, difficulties, and expectations. The results of the showed that they have a mostly positive perception of living in Romania, however they are encountering challenges related to housing, access to medical services, psychological counselling, and communication with Romanian peers.
- World Vision reached more than 1,200 Ukrainian refugee children with services provided through the “Happy Bubbles” Socio-Educational Centres in Bucharest, Cluj, Constanţa, Iaşi, Râmnicu Vâlcea, and Suceava. More than 80 parents and caregivers attended MHPSS group sessions, to reduce parental stress, promote positive coping mechanisms, enhance wellbeing, and strengthen parent-child relationships.
- World Vision ran bi-monthly integration events together with local communities, schools, and NGOs fostering cross-cultural friendships and promote social-educational inclusion, bringing together more than 500 Romanian and Ukrainian children in Bucharest, Cluj, Constanţa, Iaşi, Râmnicu Vâlcea, and Suceava.
- World Vision provided case management to 86 children in domains such as behavioural regulation, cognitive stimulation, and additional educational support. Parental support was also ensured to help caregivers manage their parent-child relationships, learning how to set positive boundaries, and a system of rewards and sanctions.
- Save the Children continued implementation of the “Safe Families” methodology providing an average of four sessions for children and parents at centres in Bucharest, Baia Mare, Constanţa, Galaţi, Iaşi, Năvodari, Sighetu Marmăţiei, Suceava, and Timișoara reaching 117 children and 84 parents.

- Save the Children hosted the “*Young Voices of Ukraine - Children’s Participation Forum*”, with the participation of 40 Ukrainian children from the nine localities and attended by relevant authorities and partners including the Ministry of Education, the National Authority for the Protection of Children’s Rights and Adoption (ANPDCA), Department for Emergency Situations (DSU), UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM, and the Embassy of Ukraine.
- 260 children benefited from the Resilience Innovation Facilities (RIFs) in Bucharest, Braşov and Constanţa managed by Terre des Hommes. RIFs are safe and dynamic hubs of creativity, granting children an avenue to explore the realms of 3D printing, vinyl cutters, and other tools, all complemented by an MHPSS component. Moreover, 791 children received individual or group MHPSS sessions, as well as intercultural learning and life skills lessons. 95 children were supported with tailored information and were referred to health, social welfare, and legal services, or were supported through Terre des Hommes’ case management. 447 children were assisted with tailored information on children’s rights in Romania.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The reduction in funding for Ukrainian refugees at the national level has the effect of creating uncertainty and anxiety among children and their parents.
- There is need for improved access to health services and MHPSS support.
- Access to afterschool activities, leisure, play, and opportunities for community integration needs to be improved.



## Gender-Based Violence

### Achievements and Impact

- NGO ANAIS in partnership with UNICEF hosted three Empowerment through Self-Defence (ESD) workshops with a total of 39 participants, including girls and boys aged 8 to 18. The workshops featured game-based exercises covering ESD principles, body awareness, situational awareness, and interactive activities like the "traffic light" and "strategy balloon game." Discussions on safety issues and the psychologist's insights were valuable, with participants expressing a strong desire for more such training. Evaluations highlighted the training's importance for safety and providing reassurance, with participants noting its usefulness for both them and their families. These workshops are part of a project aimed at mitigating gender-based violence for refugee and host community members in Bucharest and Ilfov.
- In June, Sensiblu supported over 800 Ukrainian refugees and members of the host community through 35 group sessions in Bucharest, Baia Mare, Constanţa, Râmnicu Vâlcea, Sighetu Marmaţiei, and Suceava. Topics included gender-based violence, self-confidence, and adapting to life in a new place. In Constanţa, discussions focused on confidence and gratitude, while the sessions in Râmnicu Vâlcea addressed safety and future plans and were supported by the police. Sensiblu also provided 31 hours of counselling and marked World Refugee Day with events in Suceava, Constanţa, and Râmnicu Vâlcea, promoting solidarity and cultural inclusion for over 200 participants, including Ukrainian volunteers. Collaborations with UNHCR and local partners highlighted efforts to combat violence, with positive feedback affirming their community support efforts.
- In June, NGO Necuvinte conducted information sessions on violence, human trafficking, and sexual abuse for both adults and teenagers. Adolescents participated in regular psychological support groups where violence-related issues were discussed. The workshops also brought together both women and men, facilitating open and constructive discussions between different groups. These discussions encouraged mutual understanding and addressed misconceptions about domestic violence as a private matter, especially among Ukrainian refugees.

## Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Integrating Romanian nationals into the Empowerment through Self-Defence workshops alongside Ukrainian refugees is necessary to help reduce negative perceptions about their presence and lifestyle.
- Addressing men's reluctance to discuss domestic violence as a private matter and building trust in law enforcement among women.
- The challenge of shifting beliefs that normalise violence.



## Education

### Achievements and Impact

- Following the end of the school year in June, new data on enrolment and participation in the national education system is expected to be available in September 2024.
- 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 registered a slight increase, from 53 in May to 59 on June. In June, these hubs served some 9,535 refugee children from Ukraine.
- 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. 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 support, activities fostering local integration, only providing access to online learning (in a complementary or alternative manner) as a last resort.
- 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 county school inspectorates and local NGOs to ensure continuity of education support services during the summer school vacation, including through partnership agreements to help prolong the operations of education hubs at least until the beginning of the next academic year and to advocate for the organization of additional Romanian language courses under the leadership of county school inspectorates to meet growing demand.
- Through dedicated support extended to the Bucharest Municipal School Inspectorate (ISMB) and the Education Desk at Romexpo, an additional 871 enrolment requests were registered for Bucharest in June. ISMB receives applications during the summer and the allocation of places will be communicated starting with the first week of September, when the new council meet to issue the decision for the new school year. This information will also be displayed on the ISMB website, on the "Next to Ukraine" page.
- UNICEF's partnership agreements with the British Council, CREIS, FITT, HOLTIS, JRS, PATRIR, Step-by-Step, and Sus Inima continued to deliver complementary and alternative education services and support to parents in cities hosting large refugee communities, benefiting several thousand 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 23 play and learning and parenting hubs for children in early education, through the collaboration with the NGO Step-by-Step.

- World Vision continued to implement educational activities at nine “Happy Bubbles” socio-educational centres located in Bucharest, Cluj, Constanța, Iași, Suceava, and Râmnicu Vâlcea for more than 1,500 children. The educational programme focused on preschool and afterschool activities on daily basis. As the children began their summer vacation, the centres concentrated their activities on 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.
- For World Refugee Day, more than 100 children expressed their thoughts during a cultural-artistic event on refugee integration organized by World Vision in Bucharest. The children performed in both Romanian and Ukrainian languages. Across the country, World Vision held thematic events to raise awareness regarding the challenges faced by refugees. World Vision continued to provide support for 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 Christian Bucharest Association Centre (ACCB) and integrative remedial activities in three schools in Constanța through local partner JRS.
- JRS, with 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. Further support was extended to provide additional Romanian language classes to children and adults through 10 dedicated language teachers. Five psychologists provided support in mediating school-related issues among children, parents, and teachers in Bucharest, Brașov and Constanța. The activities will be reduced during the summer period.
- In Constanța, with the support of World Vision, JRS provided remedial integration activities for 350 children both refugee and host communities through a mentorship and educational support program for Ukrainian children attending Romanian schools. They received support with Romanian language and Mathematics, as well as with integration in three local schools. In close cooperation with the local School Inspectorate and World Vision, one training event Learn Fusion was organized between 28-30 June, focusing on innovative learning methods and cultural diversity, complementing the training provided to 50 teachers under the 'Learning and Teaching in Difficult Time' course will take place at the 'Mircea cel Bătrân' National College in Constanța under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, organized between 14-16 June.
- JRS delivered a linguistic skills training course in Romanian as a foreign language during the 2023-2024 academic year with the participation of 224 children. The course included an evaluation consisting of a written test, followed by an oral assessment of the Romanian communication skills. The course was offered free of charge in five educational institutions of Constanța county, namely: "Nicolae Titulescu" Elementary School No. 6, "Mihai Viteazul" Elementary School No. 29, "Mihail Koiciu" Elementary School No. 10 in Constanța, "George Enescu" Elementary School in Năvodari, and "Eforie Nord" Elementary School No. 1, while "Constantin Brătescu" National Pedagogic College of Constanța, a school with a tradition in teaching Romanian as a foreign language, served as the evaluation centre.
- At the end of the academic year JRS held a summer school with 50 children at its integration centre in Galați. The education and play activities brought together children in need from various migrant communities. A similar event was organized in Bucharest with the support of volunteers from the United States. JRS began to implement activities in Constanța and Galați under the AMIF “MyPlace” project supporting the integration of adults and children in Romania.
- Through the “Support to Educational Activities within the One Proposal” project funded by Entreculturas, JRS enrolled more than 1,300 children for a four-month-long free online Romanian language course focused on integrating children in Romanian schools. To accommodate the demand, JRS Romania established 44 virtual classrooms, each hosting 25-30 students.
- An art workshop was held under a UNESCO project focusing on the art of traditional Ukrainian painting and a master class on various Ukrainian customs with a module on Ukrainian traditional embroidered shirts.
- Terre des Hommes continued its work in Bucharest and Brașov, and Constanța in partnership with the Civic Resource Centre and in Baia Mare (Maramureș county) with City Makers. Activities consisted of individual and group MHPSS sessions, intercultural and life-skills development, adapted information, referral, a case management, and individual protection assistance. In Brașov, Terre des Hommes focused on different aspects including RIF activities, Psychosocial Support sessions, intercultural and life-skills development, case

management and individual protection assistance. During June, 121 children benefited from intercultural learning and life skills activities in the RIFs, centres and schools.

- CNRR provided counselling on access to education in Bucharest, Braşov, Constanţa Galaţi, Iaşi, and Suceava, assisting refugees with the school and kindergarten enrolment procedure; procedure of recognition and equivalence of studies and diplomas; referral to Romanian language courses and other educational activities.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- During the summer vacations, informal educational activities such as summer camps are needed to keep children connected, to further build and maintain social cohesion, and to support working parents.
- The Romanian education system is experiencing significant challenges in its efforts to fully integrate refugee children, especially as new enrolments continue to increase. These challenges include the limited number of available 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.
- 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. Need for promoting Romanian language courses to increase the chances of audient children to qualify for the pupil status, Romanian language classes for adults, psychological counselling for children, and additional places in kindergartens and daycares.
- There are still of issues and questions related to the enrolment procedures for the next academic year, both at national and local levels. Parents and caregivers will need to receive adequate and timely information to consider the best options for their children, one way to address this is through a "Back to school" campaign.
- For children between the ages of 2 and 5 years old, there is a shortage of places in kindergartens in big cities and especially in rural areas, where there are less kindergartens or no educational hubs. This also affects many single parents who are facing difficulties in taking job offers because they cannot leave their children unattended.
- The NGO's challenges in maintaining financial support from donors and the uncertainty of sustaining the support of educational hubs.
- Many Ukrainian youths and adolescents are interested in applying for university in Romania for bachelor and master programs, as well as the preparatory year Romanian language course for foreign students. There has also been an increase in the number of parents who want to change their children's audient status to pupil.



## Health and Nutrition

### Achievements and Impact

- The National Agency for Equal Opportunities (ANES), in cooperation with the East European Institute for Reproductive Health (EEIRH) and WHO Romania, conducted trainings on Intimate-Partner Violence (IPV) and Non-Partner Sexual Violence in Cluj and Iaşi throughout June. 9 national facilitators trained 53 health professionals, among them hospital managers, emergency physicians, obstetricians, gynaecologists, family doctors and nurses, among others. The trainings aimed to enhance capacity on first-line support, facility readiness, and clinical management of rape and IPV (CMR-IPV) care. All content was developed in line with evidence-based WHO guidelines which have been translated into Romanian language.
- Language barriers have represented a key barrier to healthcare access throughout the refugee crisis. To address this, WHO Romania launched an interpretation hotline in April 2024, providing Ukrainian refugees with free over-the-phone translation for medical consultations throughout Romania. In June, 78 Ukrainian refugees received a total of 997 minutes interpretation support. So far in 2024, WHO supported 167 medical consultations with 2,175 minutes of interpretation.



- Psychological support remains a key health need for Ukrainian refugees in Romania. In June, WHO Cultural Mediators delivered 41 individual counselling sessions and conducted 14 therapy sessions. Within the past 6 months, the number of individual counselling sessions delivered stands at 477, with cultural mediators organizing a further 38 group counselling sessions, and 62 art and music therapy sessions, the latter of which have proven to be highly effective in addressing stress and anxiety.
- Refugees continue to experience difficulties with information when seeking healthcare services, reducing their ability to navigate the health system. These range from confusion regarding health entitlements, to limited understanding of how to access services. In June, 13 refugees received personalised guidance on healthcare access, 29 were accompanied to medical appointments, and Cultural Mediators supported a further 14 people to schedule appointments with family doctors. Between January and June 2024, WHO cultural mediators provided information on healthcare rights and services for 466 Ukrainian refugees, accompanied 228 refugees to medical appointments, and directly scheduled 234 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, Braşov, Constanţa, Galaţi, and Suceava encouraging Ukrainians to register in the national health system. During this reporting period, WHO-supported family doctors provided 111 consultations to Ukrainian refugees, with total primary health services delivered this year totalling 1,042.
- 60 members of vulnerable communities, including Ukrainian refugees, participated in a focus group discussion initiated by ANAIS in collaboration with WHO Romania in June, on the challenges of accessing GBV-related healthcare services. The focus group discussions will enable WHO to identify and address challenges.
- UNICEF supported provision of primary healthcare to 720 adults and 188 children. A further 6,190 adults and 1,163 children were reached by health information in June. Since January, UNICEF has supported the delivery of primary health care services in public health facilities; through implementing partners up to 2,421 children and women have been reached with essential health services, 97 children have been immunised, and 1,154 children and caregivers received Infant and Young Child Feeding counselling and information in Bucharest and in Ilfov counties.
- Terre des Hommes continued its work in Bucharest and Braşov, and Constanţa in partnership with the Civic Resource Centre and in Baia Mare (Maramureş county) with City Makers offering individual and group MHPSS sessions, inter-cultural and life skills activities, tailored information, referrals, individual protection assistance, and case management. The RIFs in Bucharest, Braşov, and Constanţa served as vibrant creative hubs where 139 children engaged in activities like 3D printing and vinyl cutting. Overall, 757 children participated in MHPSS sessions or related activities, 260 of whom were involved in RIF activities. Additionally, 447 children received information on their rights and accessing services in Romania, while 439 adults took part in mental health consultations or group support, with 280 receiving tailored information during these activities.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The National Health Insurance House system for registering Ukrainians has been down since May 2024. The Independent Midwives' Association found that refugees are unable to register for appointments and that more than 200 are on a waiting list until the system comes back online. It also found that more than 300 refugees, including vulnerable persons and persons with chronic diseases, are in need of medical care.



### Basic Needs

#### Achievements and Impact

- A group comprising of Bucharest Sector 2 Municipality, FONSS, Habitat for Humanity and Save the Children, Terre des Hommes, UNHCR, and UNICEF submitted an advocacy note on the present and future of collective

accommodation centres in the Ukraine response to the Government of Romania. The conclusion of the assistance program on 30 June brings a series of challenges and potential protection risks for vulnerable refugees currently hosted in collective shelters. The note is the result of an ad-hoc meeting held with the presence of State Counsellor, Ms. Victoria Stoiciu, from the Prime Minister's Office and the DSU relating to the current challenges and a lack of legal provisions to continue hosting vulnerable refugees from Ukraine in collective sites in Romania. Through the note, subscribed partners plead for the identification of sustainable accommodation solutions, focusing on the most vulnerable refugees from Ukraine, complemented by an exit strategy for refugees dependent on basic needs assistance. Shared responsibility between Municipalities and the DSU for the management of collective shelter needs was retained as one of the main recommendations to be addressed in the new Government Emergency Ordinance.

- UNHCR and the Department for Emergency Situations (DSU) are jointly carrying out site monitoring and assessments of the collective accommodation centres to further define the needs of these centres to ensure short and sustainable mid-term response to the most vulnerable refugees. So far, 15 collective accommodation centres have been identified in the cities at the border areas and cities where large number of refugees are residing. In parallel, UNHCR is coordinating a technical working group that has produced a briefing note that encompasses the current situation of the collective accommodation centres, relevant legal and administrative challenges, and provides a set of recommendations.
- In June, World Vision Romania continued to support vulnerable families through the program "Family Hygiene Kit and Food Voucher ONE TIME Assistance". 3,047 vouchers and 3,055 kits were distributed to vulnerable families from the host community (26.4 per cent from total number of kits and vouchers). The distribution of hygiene kits and food vouchers took place in 6 locations of the project: Bucharest, Constanța, Medgidia, Iași, Suceava, Vaslui through partners belonging to the social protection system – the General Directorate for Social Assistance of Bucharest (DGASMB) and the General Directorate for Social the social assistance authorities selected their most vulnerable beneficiaries Assistance and Child Protection (DGAPSC) from Bucharest Sector 6, Constanța, Vaslui, Iași and Suceava. Based on World Vision's vulnerability criteria. By the end of June, a total of 8,215 beneficiaries were reached, of which 1074 were people with disabilities. From the total number of beneficiaries, 41.3 per cent are vulnerable refugees located in Bucharest and 31.2 per cent are located in Constanța County (Medgidia included), whereas the rest based in Iași, Suceava and Vaslui.
- During the reporting period, the basic needs operational partner NGO 4Change provided services at two collective centres in Bucharest, including counselling and information services, counselling on how to deal with hot weather for older persons, and for one of the beneficiaries, a new mother, a request was made to the DGASPC District 2 regarding the provision of basic and essential needs.
- AIDRom provided basic material assistance in Arad to 25 vulnerable refugees from Ukraine, including 21 children and 4 adults who received social vouchers. AIDRom implemented legal counselling sessions following requests from holders of temporary protection. UNHCR assisted over 1,000 vulnerable forcibly displaced persons who were assessed and found eligible for cash assistance for refugees under the specific needs programme during May. UNHCR released the second instalment for 880 persons who were assessed during April and received their first instalment during May. Eligible refugees will be assisted with four instalments.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR and partners distributed nearly 6,000 core-relief items (CRIs), including thermoses, blankets, hygiene kits, body towels, baby diapers, women, children and men clothing to nearly 3,000 refugees living in Bucharest, Brașov, Cluj, Constanța, Galați, Neamț, Sibiu, Suceava, and Timiș counties. So far in 2024, UNHCR has distributed 49,004 CRIs to 27,011 refugees in Romania.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The conclusion of the assistance program on the 30 June brings a series of challenges and potential protection risks for vulnerable refugees currently hosted in collective centres. A significant proportion of refugees currently hosted are unlikely to become self-reliant once the assistance comes to an end because of the very complex and vulnerable profile of their household and may not be able to find suitable accommodation.



## Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion

### Achievements and Impact

- According to the latest Labour Inspectorate data, there are 7,327 Ukrainians formally employed in Romania with 2,658 different employers (as of end of May 2024). The cities where most people are employed include Bucharest (3,168 employees), Maramureş (430), Timiș (381), Constanța (328), Cluj (312), Brașov (284), Iași (199) and Suceava (174). The main sectors for employment are construction, manufacturing, restaurant/service, and IT industry. As such, while the Ukrainian refugee population generally has a high level of education (with 55 per cent having obtained a bachelor's or master's degree according to the UNHCR 2023 Multi-Sector Needs Assessment), many are working lower-skilled jobs which tend to be lower paid and more physically demanding. This is largely due to the language barrier (which remains a challenge even for earning a lower-skilled job) and difficulties with getting foreign qualifications recognised. Other key challenges to accessing the labour market include the limited availability of childcare support, limited knowledge of the Romanian labour market, and the lack of a professional network. The RRP partners continue to address these challenges by offering inter-linked services such as language courses, childcare support, job coaching and counselling, guidance on the process for recognition of qualifications, and introductions to employers, reaching over 8,000 individuals so far in 2024.
- Many refugees are also interested in starting-up their own businesses in Romania. Several RRP partners, including CNRR and World Vision, have been providing information sessions and legal guidance on this topic. In June, World Vision also launched an intensive entrepreneurship training targeting 200 refugees. The trainings will cover various topics including tax regulations and legal responsibilities of business owners in Romania, marketing and communication strategies, and support with developing business plans. Upon completion of the training, participants will be invited to apply for a business grants competition through which 30 business grants will be awarded to the winning entrepreneurs.
- To address the language barrier, several RRP partners have provided language courses and trainings. Jobs for Ukraine organized five English and Romanian “speaking clubs” this month, bringing together members of the refugee community to practice their language skills. UNHCR, through International House, has also continued to offer Romanian language courses for refugee job seekers to enhance their employability. So far this year, 1,040 individuals have been enrolled into the courses (231 during June).
- To accelerate refugee job seekers linkages to employers, several RRP partners have been organizing different networking events and job fairs with strategic companies. For World Refugee Day on 20 June, Sus Inima and the County Agency for Employment (AJOFM) organized a job fair in Sibiu. Two major recruitment agencies were present, with more than 60 job offers available for refugees. To help job seekers prepare for the fair, Project Voiajor organized a CV building workshop on 19 June with nine attendees. On 25 June, Project Voiajor also held an “express interview” event during which 12 job seekers had the opportunity to network and interview with four companies that are open to hiring. The job seekers background and skills were evaluated and matched with the employers’ available jobs in advance of the fair to increase the chances for successful hires.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- On 13 June, UNHCR and World Vision organized the monthly Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion Working Group meeting online from Bucharest. The International Finance Corporation (IFC) held a presentation for the group highlighting the key findings of their market study on the financial inclusion of FDPs from Ukraine in Romania. IFC underlined that while an estimated 52,000 FDPs can be identified as prospective customers for financial institutions, they are generally perceived as higher risk customers which implies a higher complexity of the compliance processes, especially for higher value financial products. This highlights the need for more support and advocacy to enhance refugees access to financial services.

## Cross-Cutting Priorities



### Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

#### Achievements and Impact

- Terre des Hommes carried out an awareness raising session on safeguarding risks, child rights, and forms of harm with 10 volunteers in preparation for an event marking International Children's Day. The volunteers developed knowledge about the foundation's code of conduct, appropriate behaviour, and reporting channels.
- To mark World Refugee Day, a celebratory event was organized by the Sensiblu Foundation on June 19 for which 24 volunteers were trained on PSEA.



## Youth and Adolescents

#### Achievements and Impact

- Romanian and Ukrainian teenagers applied, were selected and enrolled in World Vision's mentorship program dedicated to the Children Consultative Council. The selected members attended monthly webinars conducted by volunteer specialists from January to May on a range of topics, including public speaking, efficient communication, mental health and positive coping mechanisms, children's rights with an emphasis on access to education, protection, participation, health and inclusion.
- For World Refugee Day, 35 teenage (18 Ukrainian and 17 Romanian) members of the mentorship program participated in a learning camp on the topics of diversity, equality and inclusion. This gave participants the opportunity to get to know each other in person, to learn from each other, to put into practice the skills they had acquired during the mentorship program's webinars, and to make their voice heard through a video manifesto which will be published in the following months.
- On 4 June, Plan International East and Central Europe launched the "Adolescent Girls in Crisis: Voices from Ukraine, Poland and Romania" report. The report seeks to amplify the voices of adolescent girls and youth impacted by the war in Ukraine and highlights key issues relating to ongoing insecurity; mental health and psychosocial concerns; the impact of disrupted education; limited access to sexual and reproductive health and rights; and the desire of adolescent girls to participate in decision making relating to the future of Ukraine. (<https://plan-international.org/poland/publications/girls-in-crisis-ukraine/>)
- On 18 June, Plan International Romania organised an event to launch a comprehensive report about the state of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in Romania. This research aims to shed light on the critical issues affecting SRHR in the country, with a strong focus on the experiences of adolescent girls and young women.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is a clear need for more opportunities for teenagers and young people to meet offline, in person, and interact with each other in a safe and meaningful way.



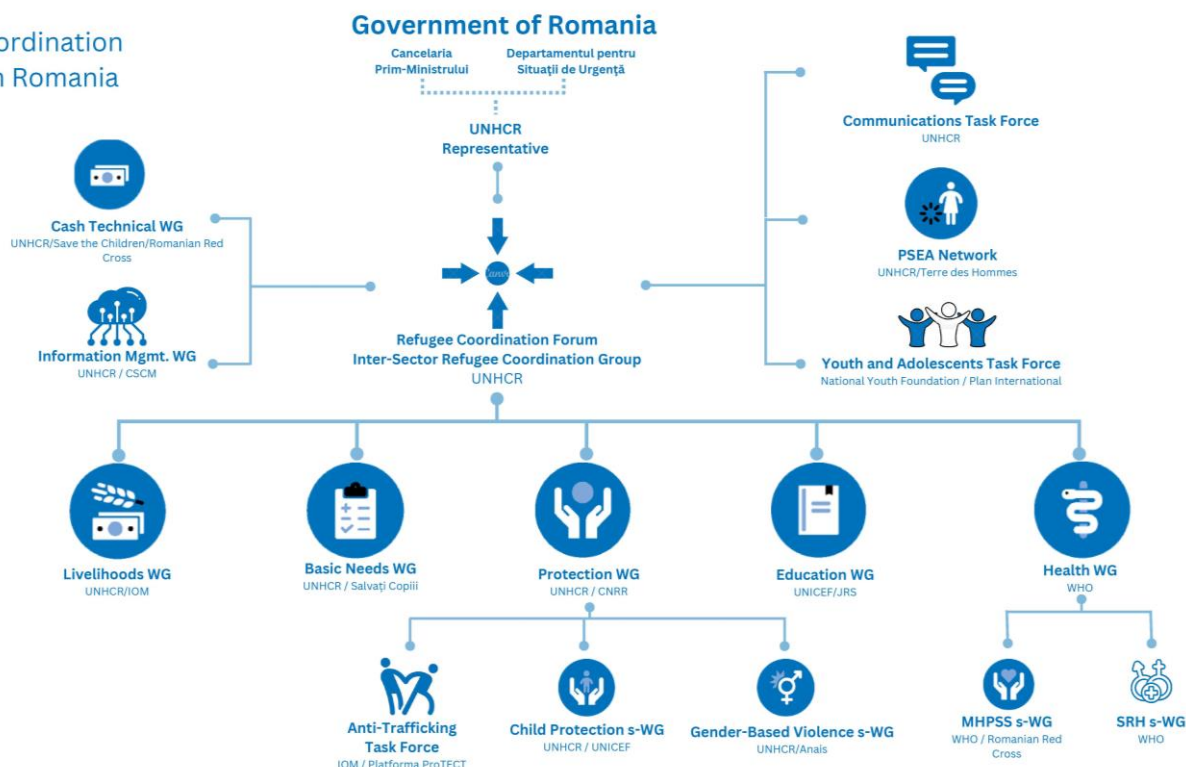
## Trafficking in Persons

### Achievements and Impact

- IOM, in collaboration with UNICEF held several meetings with local NGOs to discuss the Child Protection Compact proposal. The concept note is currently being drafted.
- IOM developed a media plan for World Day Against Trafficking in Persons on 30 July, corresponding with this year's theme "Leave no Child Behind in the fight against human trafficking."

## 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

## CONTACTS

**Sebastian Der Kinderen**, Senior Inter-Agency Coordination Officer, Romania

[kinderen@unhcr.org](mailto:kinderen@unhcr.org)

**James Weatherlake**, Senior Reporting Associate (Inter-Agency), Romania

[weatherl@unhcr.org](mailto:weatherl@unhcr.org)

## LINKS

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