



Regional Refugee Response  
for the Ukraine Situation

# Refugee Response Plan Romania Chapter

## Programme Criticality Survey 2024

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Inter-Agency Coordination Unit  
January – June 2024



## Background

The Inter-Agency Coordination Unit conducted a survey with Refugee Response Plan (RRP) partners to assess the current level of funding and its effect on programming, identify RRP sectors that are affected by the current reduced funding levels, identify activities that will not or may not take place due to lack of funding, and re-prioritise programming across sectors based on the funding levels and identify the most affected counties.

A total of **23 organizations** (out of the 37 RRP partners) participated in the survey, including 14 National NGOs, 5 International NGOs, and 4 UN agencies.

## Methodology

### Data Collection

RRP partners were asked to fill an online survey using KoBo Collect. The questions in the survey are as follows:

**Based on your RRP appeal (an Excel summarizing your appeal was sent via e-mail), are there activities that you planned to implement that you will not be implementing anymore?**

**If yes, which sectors will be affected by this? (select as many as needed)**

**[For each sector] Please describe the activities that will not be implemented, based on your RRP appeal**

**If possible, quantify the impact that the activities were supposed to achieve**

**If you receive the missing funding in the next few months, would you still try to implement the activities?**

To ensure that respondents were aware of their organizations *original* RRP appeal, each organization was contacted individually and provided with an extract of their appeal.

## Results

### Funding level First Semester 2024

RRP partners are required to report their funding levels, including amounts received since the beginning of the year on a quarterly basis. The financial reporting results were correlated with the Programme Criticality survey to provide a comprehensive overview of the funding situation.

In 2024 RRP partners reported receiving \$14 million during Q1, which increased to **\$34 million** in Q2, out of a total appeal of \$117.2 million. At the end of Q2, RRP partners received **29 per cent against the total appeal**.

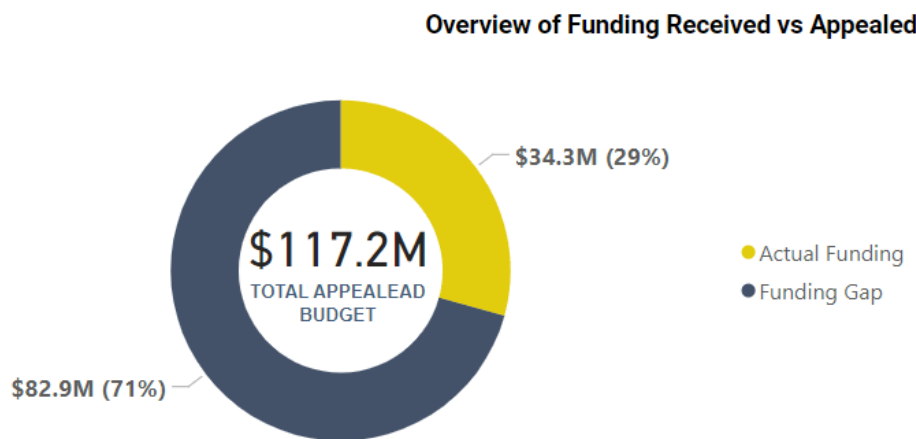


Image 1: Pie chart showing the distribution of actual funding and funding gap.

### Historical comparison with 2023

Comparing the funding between the first and second quarters of 2023 and 2024 reveals a noticeable decline. In Q1 of 2023, funding stood at 17 per cent, which saw a significant rise to 37 per cent in Q2 of the same year. However, in 2024, the funding situation shows a decline, with Q1 reporting 14 per cent and Q2 at 29 per cent. Despite the quarter-over-quarter increase within each year, the overall trend indicates a downward trajectory in funding from 2023 to 2024, suggesting a sustained decline in the financial support over the years.

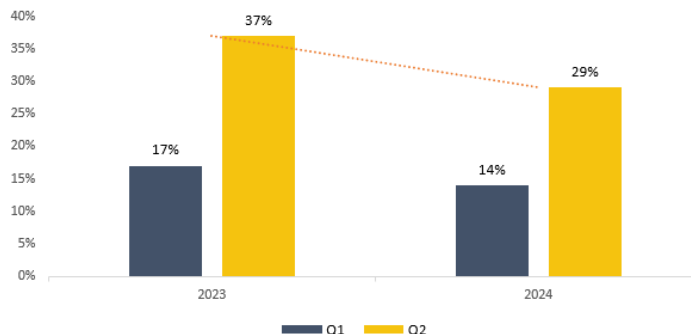


Image 2: Comparison of funding percentages between Q1 and Q2 for the years 2023 and 2024

## Comparison with regional level

Compared to regional levels Romania's funding percentage is slightly higher than the regional average, particularly when contrasted with larger countries like Poland, which received only 14 per cent of required funding, and the Czech Republic with 20 per cent. However, it still falls short when compared to Bulgaria, which achieved 37 per cent funding. Overall, Romania's funding situation, while better than some countries, still reflects the broader challenge of substantial funding gaps across the region.





















	Country	Requirements	Funding	Gap	Targeted Population	# of partners	Funded	Gap
	Moldova	\$303,055,881	\$100,820,811	\$202,235,070	90,000	82		67%
	Poland	\$377,377,754	\$53,742,001	\$323,635,753	1,100,000	103		86%
	Romania	\$117,215,789	\$34,328,197	\$82,887,592	110,000	37		71%
	Bulgaria	\$38,561,184	\$14,239,157	\$24,322,027	70,000	19		63%
	Czech Republic	\$58,264,513	\$11,835,348	\$46,429,165	400,000	30		80%
	Slovakia	\$59,940,517	\$11,350,662	\$48,589,855	150,000	25		81%
	Hungary	\$42,188,964	\$9,696,478	\$32,492,486	85,000	31		77%
	Lithuania	\$15,450,605	\$2,910,531	\$12,540,074	65,000	18		81%
	Estonia	\$10,589,248	\$1,967,793	\$8,621,455	55,000	14		81%
	Latvia	\$9,682,633	\$1,644,630	\$8,038,003	50,000	17		83%

Image 3: Funding level across Ukraine Regional RRP countries in 2024, highlighting the financial requirements, actual funding received, funding gaps, and the percentage funded. Source: Operational Data Portal [Refugee Funding Tracker](#)

## Funding by partners

The funding landscape for RRP partners has revealed significant disparities in the distribution and receipt of funds.

- As of the latest reporting period, 16 out of 37 partners have not received any new funding against the appeal.
- Received funding is distributed as follows:
  - 62 per cent of funding was received by UN Agencies.
  - 32 per cent by National NGOs.
  - 6 per cent by International NGOs.
- 7 out of the 37 RRP partners are not currently operating refugee-focused programmes:
  - 3 partners did not start their refugee programmes (UNESCO, SECS, Tineri pentru Tineri).
  - 4 partners have ceased refugee-focused operations (ACF, CORE, Habitat, RomaJust, Romanian Angel Appeal).

- Despite UN agencies receiving the highest amount of funding, they still face a 68 per cent funding gap. National NGOs have a 72 per cent gap, and International NGOs, being the most underfunded, struggle with an 85 per cent gap.

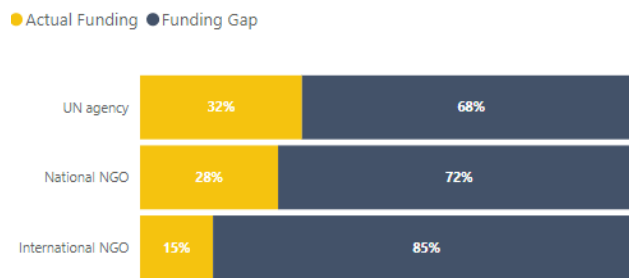


Image 4: Chart comparing the funding gaps of different organization-types.

### Funding by Sector

The reporting on funding highlights that all sectors are affected by funding shortages, but some sectors are more affected than others:

- Critically underfunded are Livelihood and Socio-Economic Inclusion with 9 per cent funding received against the appeal, followed by Gender-Based Violence (GBV) (13 per cent), and Education (14 per cent).
- Child Protection (21 per cent) and Basic Needs (21 per cent) have received less than a quarter of their funding needs.
- The most funded sector is Protection (excluding GBV and Child Protection) which is 65 per cent funded.



Image 5. Funding distribution across sectors against the appeal.

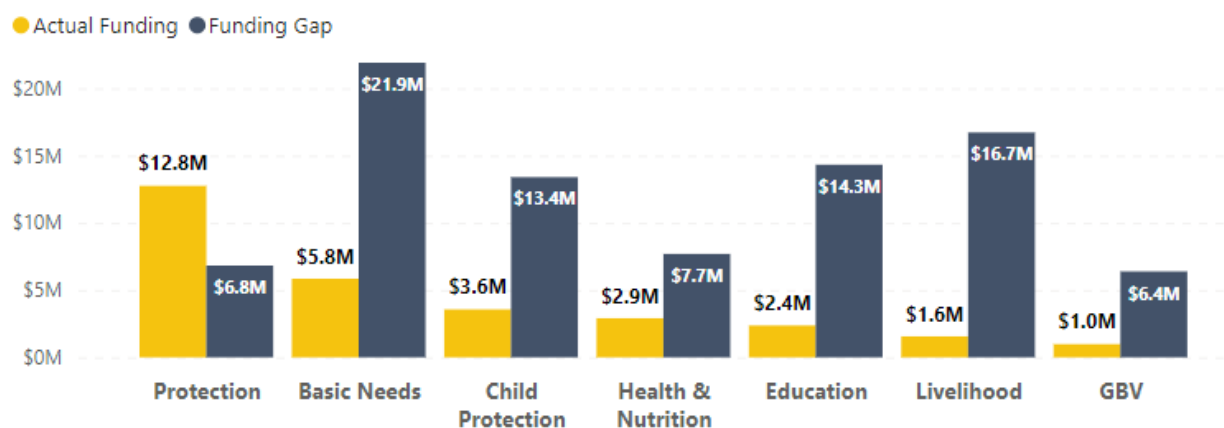


Image 6. Detailed bar chart displaying the actual funding and funding gaps for various sectors.

## Programme Criticality Survey

In total, 23 RRP appealing agencies responded to the survey (62 per cent of the 37 RRP partners). Of the 23 organizations that responded to the survey, **17 partners (74 per cent) reported that their activities will be affected by the funding situation**. For comparison, last year, when a similar survey was conducted, 50 per cent last of respondents indicated that there programming would be affected.

Those reporting to be affected include all international NGOs, 75 per cent of UN Agencies, and more than 60 per cent of National NGOs.

Type Organisation	of Participated	Affected Number	(%)
National NGO	14	9	64%
International NGO	5	5	100%
UN Agencies	4	3	75%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>74%</b>

In terms of Sectors, respondents reported that programming in all RRP sectors is affected by lack of funding. Education, Health, and Livelihood have the highest number of mentions, each by 7 different organizations, followed by GBV, Shelter and Non-Food Items (Basic Needs) each with 5 mentions by different partners. Child Protection and PSEA were mentioned by 3 organizations. Least mentioned were Food (Basic Needs), Protection (General), WASH, and Anti-trafficking.

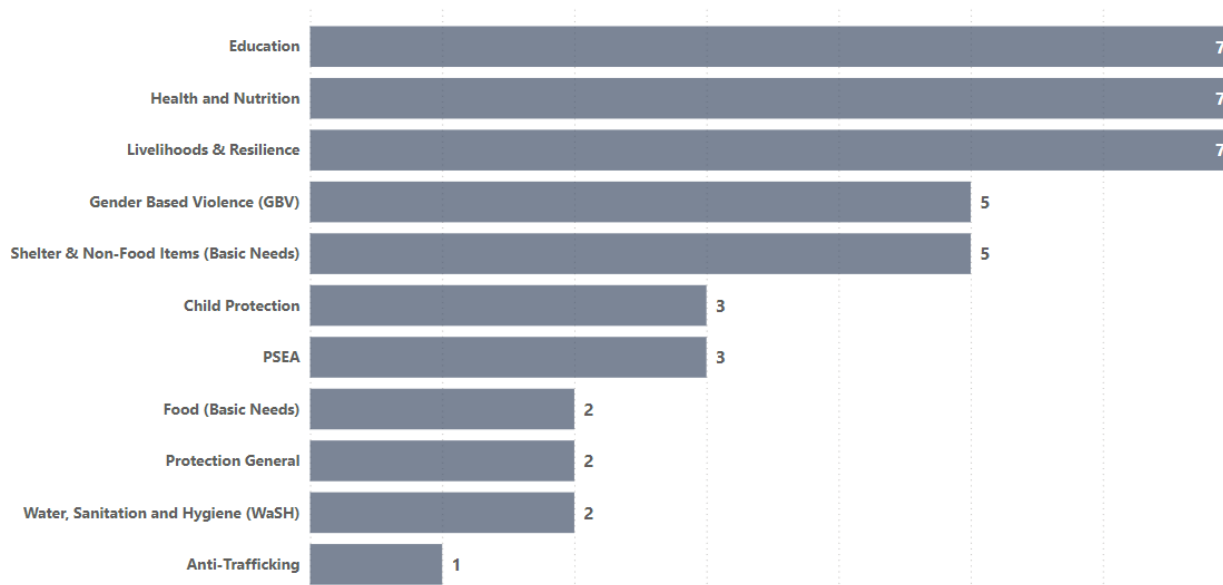


Image 7: Number of RRP partners whose RRP appeals are affected across sectors.

Noting that some sectors have more organizations who appealed than others, it is worth cross-referencing the number of sectors mentioned with the number of organizations that appealed in that sector to determine the most affected areas.

- WASH shows 100 per cent of programming reported as being affected by funding shortfalls.
- This is followed by PSEA with 75 per cent of the appealing partners reporting being affected.
- Education (64 per cent), Health and Nutrition (58 per cent), Gender-Based Violence (56 per cent) and Livelihoods also show considerable levels of impact.
- Child Protection and Food (Basic Needs) sectors both have a 50 per cent affectation rate.

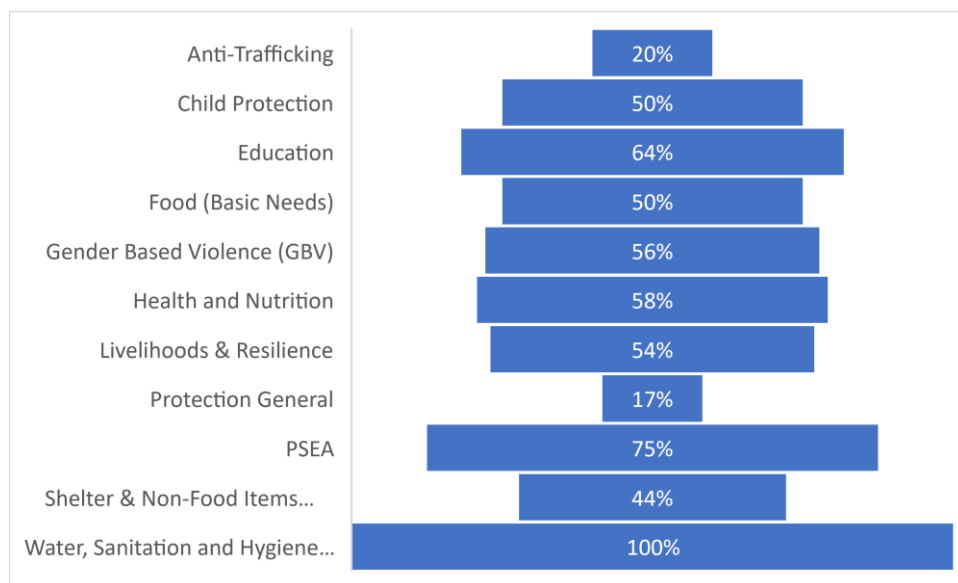


Image 8. Chart illustrating the percentage of sectors affected based on survey results.

Sector analysis indicates that on average 66 per cent of the organizations appealing in each sector are affected by lack of funding.

In addition to those who reported having to make changes in their RRP programming due to funding shortfalls, **5 RRP appealing partner organizations reported that they have either to phase out or did not implement any projects due to lack of funding.** Another 11 RRP partners reported having to scale down their project and shut down many of their activities, mainly in Education, Health, and Child Protection sectors. 7 organizations mentioned they kept their full activities active, although one of them signalled they reduced the number of beneficiaries.



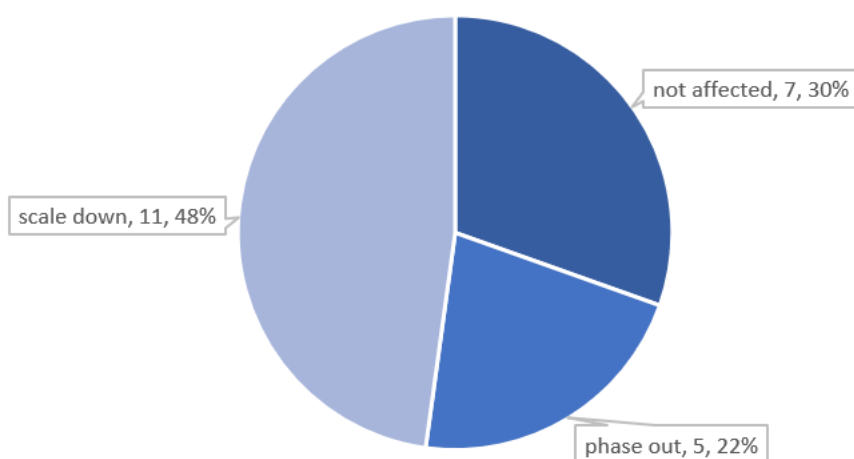


Image 9. Degree of impact for organizations according to the results of the survey

Organization name	Education	Food (Basic Needs)	Shelter & Non-Food Items (Basic Needs)	GBV	Health and Nutrition	Livelihood	Protection General	PSEA	Anti-Trafficking	Impact
RomaJust	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow			Yellow	Yellow		Yellow	>300 beneficiaries
SECS				Yellow						
CORE		Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow		Yellow		2500 beneficiaries
UNESCO						Yellow				
Habitat for Humanity Romania			Yellow							35 social rented apartments

Image 10. The five organizations that have phased out with the sectors they were covering

CORE announced the cessation of operations in Romania due to lack of funding, affecting an estimate of 2,500 beneficiaries in multiple sectors including Basic Needs, Health, and Livelihoods.

RomaJust, addressing issues of vulnerable groups from the Roma ethnic community, suspended its activities due to lack of funding. More than 300 beneficiaries are affected, being in risk of marginalization.

Habitat for Humanity could not sustain the social rent programme affecting 35 apartments in Iași and Bucharest, whose beneficiaries either had to return to Ukraine or move to accommodation with poorer conditions.

It is noteworthy that UNESCO and SECS did not implement their projects this year, both targeting misinformation and misconception related to refugee bias and sexual and reproductive health.

**All 17 organizations affected by funding shortages mentioned that they are capable in resuming their activities if funding is received (with only one exception related to WASH sector).**

## Detailed Sector Analysis

### Most affected sectors:

1. Livelihoods, with 9 per cent funding, 7 affected partners.
2. Education, with 14 per cent funding, 7 affected partners.
3. Health, with 27 per cent funding, 7 affected partners.
4. Basic Needs, with 21 per cent funding, 6 affected partners.
5. Gender-Based Violence, with 13 per cent funding and 5 affected partners.

### Frequent mentions:

Out of the 17 organizations that reported the suspension or reduction of their activities, in term of repetitive mentions the following stand out:

1. Language Classes for children or adults – 6 mentions
2. Vocational Training / Employment Support - 6 mentions
3. Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) or psychosocial activities - 6 mentions
4. Shelter or accommodation - 4 mentions
5. Minimal response for GBV survivors and suspension of planned activities - 4 mentions
6. Sexual and Reproductive Health - 3 mentions

### Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion

**Funding Received Q2: \$1.6 million (9%)**

Total Appealing Agencies: 13

**Organizations Affected: 7**

RRP Appeals Affected: 54%

#### **Key Issues:**

- Halting training on job search skills, vocational training, financial support, and skill-building services.

#### **Detailed Mentions:**

**Language classes:** RRP partners reported having to suspend provision of language courses as part of their Livelihoods programmes, which are crucial for successful job placement, integration into the community, and will limit refugees' ability to engage with the local economy and society.

**Vocational Training:** Several organizations have had to suspend or scale back vocational training programmes. Lack of vocational training limits opportunities for developing skills and accessing employment opportunities, worsening refugees' economic situation.

**Employment Support:** RRP partners report a reduction in services aimed at helping beneficiaries find and secure employment. This includes job placement services, resume workshops, and job search assistance. Without these services, many refugees will struggle to navigate the job market, reducing their ability to earn an income and support their families.

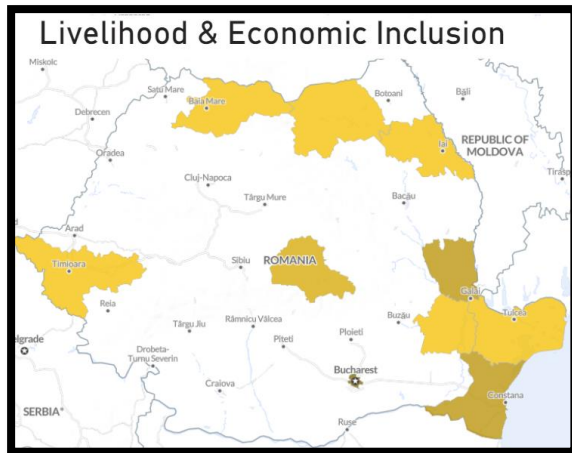


Image 10: Map showing coverage of affected organizations by county. Darker colours indicate a higher number of organizations affected in these respective counties.

## Basic Needs

Funding Received Q2: \$5.8 million (21%)

### Food

Total Appealing Agencies:  
4

Organizations Affected:  
2

RRP Appeals Affected:  
50%

### WASH

Total Appealing Agencies:  
2

Organizations Affected: 2  
RRP Appeals Affected:

100%

### Shelter & Non-Food Items

Total Appealing Agencies: 9

Organizations Affected: 4  
RRP Appeals Affected: 44%

## Key Issues:

- Reduction of food provision.
- Closure of social rental apartments, poor living conditions.
- Reduced provision of NFI support, including hygiene products and WASH supplies.

## Detailed Mentions:

**Shelter and Accommodation:** Several organizations noted the suspension or reduction of shelter services, including the closure of social rental accommodations and potential closure of accommodation centres. This reduction leaves many beneficiaries without safe and stable housing, forcing them to seek alternative, often substandard, living arrangements.

**Non-Food Items:** The provision of non-food items, such as clothing and blankets has been significantly affected, items which are important for maintaining a basic standard of living, particularly in harsh weather conditions.

**Food Assistance:** There has been a notable reduction in food assistance programmes. This includes the provision of basic food supplies and vouchers, which are vital for ensuring food security among the most vulnerable populations.

**Hygiene and Sanitation:** Funding constraints have impacted the ability to distribute hygiene kits and maintain sanitation services. This includes items such as soap, menstrual hygiene products, and other sanitary supplies, essential for maintaining health and preventing disease. The reduction in these services was signalled that could increase the risk of illness and hygiene-related issues.

**Cash Assistance:** Organizations reported challenges in providing emergency multi-purpose cash assistance, which allows beneficiaries to meet their immediate needs, whether for food, housing, or other essentials.



Image 11: Map showing county coverage of affected organizations. Darker colours indicate a higher number of organizations affected in these respective counties.

## Education

**Funding Received Q2: \$2.4 million (14%)**

Total Appealing Agencies:

11

**Organizations Affected:**

7

RRP Appeals Affected:

64%

### Key Issues:

- Halting of Romanian language courses.
- Closure of educational hubs.
- Suspension of activities and reduced support for educational inclusion.

### Detailed Mentions:

**Language Classes:** Funding limitations have led to a reduction or complete suspension of language classes, which are critical for children integration and participation in the education system and broader society.

**Educational Inclusion Programmes:** Several organizations noted difficulties in continuing programmes aimed at educational inclusion. This includes after-school programmes, special

classes for children with learning difficulties, and tailored educational support. The lack of these programmes hampers the ability of children to succeed academically and integrate socially.

**Access to Formal and Non-Formal Education:** Many organizations mentioned having to decrease their support for educational hubs, some even to close them completely, halting summer school events, and other supplementary educational activities designed to bridge gaps in learning and support continued education.

**Learning materials:** The ability to provide essential educational materials and resources has been compromised. This includes textbooks, teaching aids, and digital learning tools, which are crucial for delivering quality education to children in crisis settings.

**Capacity Building for Educators:** Organizations mentioned facing challenges in providing training and support for educators working with refugee and displaced children.

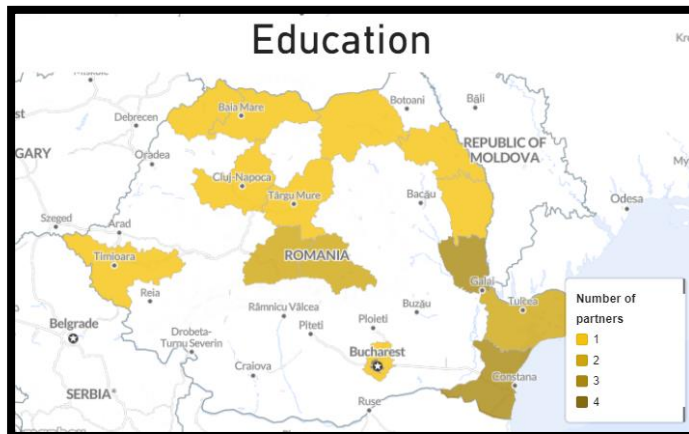


Image 12: Map showing county coverage of affected organizations. Darker colours indicate a higher number of organizations affected in these respective counties.

## Protection

**Funding Received Q2: \$12.8 million (65%)**

### Protection (General)

Total Appealing Agencies:  
12

**Organizations Affected:**  
2

RRP Appeals Affected:  
17%

### Anti-Trafficking

Total Appealing Agencies:  
5

**Organizations Affected: 1**

RRP Appeals Affected:  
20%

### PSEA

Total Appealing Agencies: 4

**Organizations Affected: 3**

RRP Appeals Affected:  
75%

## Key Issues:

- Halting activities to support and protect beneficiaries in transit centres and limiting safeguarding measures (Protection).
- Inability to implement anti-trafficking awareness campaigns. Victims and their relatives may fail to recognise trafficking situations, leading to under-reporting and increased vulnerability.
- Inability to provide legal assistance for victims of trafficking.
- Halting planned activities, limiting safeguarding measures, and reducing support channels (PSEA).

## **Detailed mentions:**

### **Protection:**

**Legal services:** Organizations are struggling to maintain legal services and general protection support. This includes assistance in obtaining identification documents and other legal protections, which are essential for enabling beneficiaries to access their rights and services.

**Capacity building:** Limited funding has hindered the capacity-building efforts aimed at enhancing the skills of protection workers. This affects the overall quality of protection services offered to vulnerable populations, including those at risk of exploitation and abuse.

**Safe spaces:** Funding shortages have impacted the ability to establish and maintain safe environments where individuals can report cases of exploitation and abuse safely. This includes the reduction of safe spaces and protective measures for vulnerable individuals.

### **Anti-trafficking:**

**Awareness campaigns:** One actor mentioned to have been forced to scale back or suspend awareness campaigns aimed at educating vulnerable groups about the risks and signs of trafficking. This reduction diminishes the capacity to prevent trafficking and protect potential victims.

**Legal assistance:** The provision of legal assistance for trafficking victims is limited, affecting the ability to support those who have been trafficked and to hold perpetrators accountable. Organizations have noted a lack of resources to provide comprehensive legal aid and support for the recovery of trafficking survivors.

### **Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA):**

**Reporting Mechanisms:** The lack of funding has also affected the establishment and maintenance of reporting and response mechanisms for PSEA. This limits the capacity to monitor, prevent, and respond to incidents of exploitation and abuse effectively.



*Image 13: Map showing county coverage of affected organizations. Darker colours indicate a higher number of organizations affected in these respective counties.*

## Child Protection

Funding Received Q2: \$3.6 million (21%)

Total Appealing Agencies: 6

Organizations Affected: 3

RRP Appeals Affected: 50%

### Key Issues:

- Reduced ability to provide psychosocial support, protection services, and educational inclusion.
- Activities affected include safe spaces for children and capacity building for child protection specialists.

### Detailed mentions:

**Psychosocial support:** Organizations are facing challenges in providing MHPSS services for children. This includes a reduction in activities that help children cope with trauma and stress, which are crucial for their psychological well-being.

**Safe spaces:** Funding limitations have led to a reduction in the availability of safe spaces for children, or reduction of services provided.

**Support for children with disabilities:** Some organizations have noted a lack of specialized support for children with disabilities, further impacted by funding cuts.

**Capacity building:** Reduced funding has affected the capacity-building for child protection workers, limiting training opportunities and the development of skills necessary to address complex child protection issues.

**Services at border crossings or border counties:** Integrating services for girls, boys, and women will not be provided at key border point or other gathering areas. Suceava county was specifically mentioned as being left without coverage.



Image 14: Map showing county coverage of affected organizations. Darker colours indicate a higher number of organizations affected in these respective counties.

## Gender-Based Violence

Funding Received Q2: \$1 million (13%)

Total Appealing Agencies: 9

Organizations Affected: 5

RRP Appeals Affected: 56%

### Key Issues:

- Reduction or suspension of planned interventions, including GBV awareness and self-defence training.
- Minimal response for refugee GBV survivors and inability to implement GBV prevention and support services, including MHPSS support.
- Inability to establish safe spaces.
- Inability to implement programmes focused on system strengthening: capacity-building for service providers.

### Detailed mentions:

**Service suspension:** Organizations have reported suspending planned GBV interventions designed to support survivors through counselling, legal assistance, and safe spaces. The suspension of these services reduces the protection and support available to those at risk.

**Reduced capacity:** Due to funding shortfalls, there is a diminished capacity to offer comprehensive services, such as empowerment and self-defence training, which are essential for the safety and confidence of GBV survivors.

**Minimal response:** The lack of adequate funding has led to a minimal response capacity for GBV survivors, limiting the ability to provide immediate and effective support. This includes insufficient resources for case management and follow-up services.

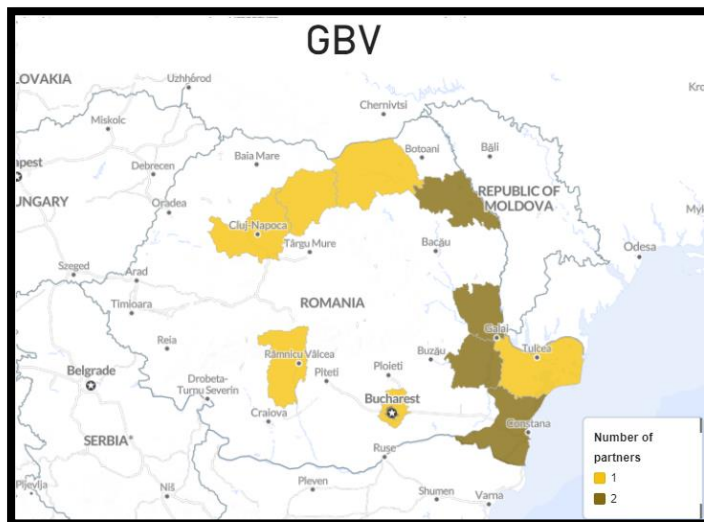


Image 15: Map showing county coverage of affected organizations. Darker colours indicate a higher number of organizations affected in these respective counties.



## Health and Nutrition

Funding Received Q2: \$2.9 million (27%)

Total Appealing Agencies: 12

Organizations Affected: 7

RRP Appeals Affected: 58%

### Key Issues:

- Suspension of essential health services, including vaccinations and general medical care
- Inability to hold information sessions on sexual and reproductive health, lack of translation services, lack of access to contraceptive methods and disability inclusion within Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services.
- Reduced accompaniment to family doctor registration.

### Detailed mentions:

**Healthcare services:** Organizations are unable to continue providing essential medical services, including vaccinations and general medical care, due to funding shortfalls. This reduction in services increases health risks among refugees.

**Mental Health and Psychosocial Support:** There is a notable cutback in MHPSS services, leading to potential increases in psychological distress, including anxiety and depression, among refugees.

**Nutritional support:** Funding limitations have led to the suspension of nutrition-related activities. This affects the ability of organizations to provide perinatal support, impacting the health and well-being of vulnerable groups, especially children and pregnant women.

**Sexual and Reproductive Health:** Organizations face challenges in offering SRH services, including family planning and access to contraception. The reduction in these services may result in negative health outcomes, such as unplanned pregnancies and spread of STDs.



Image 16: Map showing county coverage of affected organizations. Darker colours indicate a higher number of organizations affected in these respective counties.

## Survey conclusion:

The survey reveals a critical and widespread impact of funding shortages across various sectors, including Livelihoods, Education, Health and Nutrition, Basic Needs, Protection, and Gender-Based Violence. Organizations working in these areas are struggling to maintain essential services due to inadequate financial resources, leading to the suspension or reduction of critical programmes.

Key services such as healthcare, psychosocial support, educational inclusion, vocational training, and shelter provision have all been significantly affected. The inability to provide comprehensive support leaves vulnerable refugees at increased risk of health issues, economic instability, and social exclusion. The reduction in legal assistance, anti-trafficking measures, and PSEA initiatives further exacerbates the vulnerability of these groups, particularly women and children, to exploitation and abuse.

Worryingly, across all sectors, RRP partners report a lack of funding to further enhance the capacity of service providers which may impact the longer-term benefits of the refugee response and - more immediately - erode social cohesion.

Overall, the survey underscores an urgent need for increased funding and resources to support humanitarian organizations in delivering essential services and providing capacity support. The restoration and expansion of these services are crucial for ensuring the well-being, safety, and dignity of affected populations, enabling them to achieve stability and integrate successfully into their host communities. Without immediate and sustained investment, the gaps in service provision are likely to widen, worsening the humanitarian situation and delaying recovery efforts.

## Possible outcomes due to lack of funding:

- **Increased poverty:** The suspension of livelihood programmes and vocational training reduces refugees' ability to achieve economic self-sufficiency.
- **Poor quality of life:** Closing shelter programmes and suspending NFI support increases the risk of homelessness and poor living conditions.
- **Increased vulnerability to trafficking and GBV:** Without protection and support services, many refugees, particularly children and women, are at higher risk of exploitation and violence.
- **Disruption of education and integration efforts:** The lack of educational programmes and language classes severely hinders refugees' ability to integrate and access further educational opportunities.
- **Health risks:** The reduction in health services leads to untreated medical conditions and increased psychological distress.
- **Social tension:** The reduction in system strengthening, through technical and material capacity support to service providers, and socio-economic inclusion support risks undermining the sustainability gains of the refugee response towards a better Romania for all.