WHO Romania Newsletter September 2024

September 2024 Highlights

- WHO Romania hosted a ‘Convening of Strategic Partners’ on 13 September. The event was attended by Presidential Advisor Prof Paun, Minister of Health Prof Rafila, government representatives, ambassadors and civil society partners.
- The University of Medicine and Pharmacy “Iuliu Hațieganu” Cluj Napoca and WHO Romania hosted a workshop on 27 September to advocate for the introduction of a Gender-Based Violence (GBV) module in the pre-service medical curriculum.

- WHO Romania contracted the Independent Associations of Midwives (AMI) to allow them to continue their hotline for Ukrainian refugees which provides personal advice and guidance on how to access health services.
- WHO Romania participated in the 14th edition of Conference on Health and the Environment, organised by the National Public Health Institute (NPIH) on 25-27 Sept, which emphasized the interconnectedness of health and the environment.

Emergency Response

Training on Improving Access to Healthcare for Refugees

Health mediators and navigators from Latvia, Bulgaria, Estonia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, and Romania participated in a training on WHO's "Global Competency Standards for Health Workers," organised by WHO and IOM in Latvia between 24-26 September.

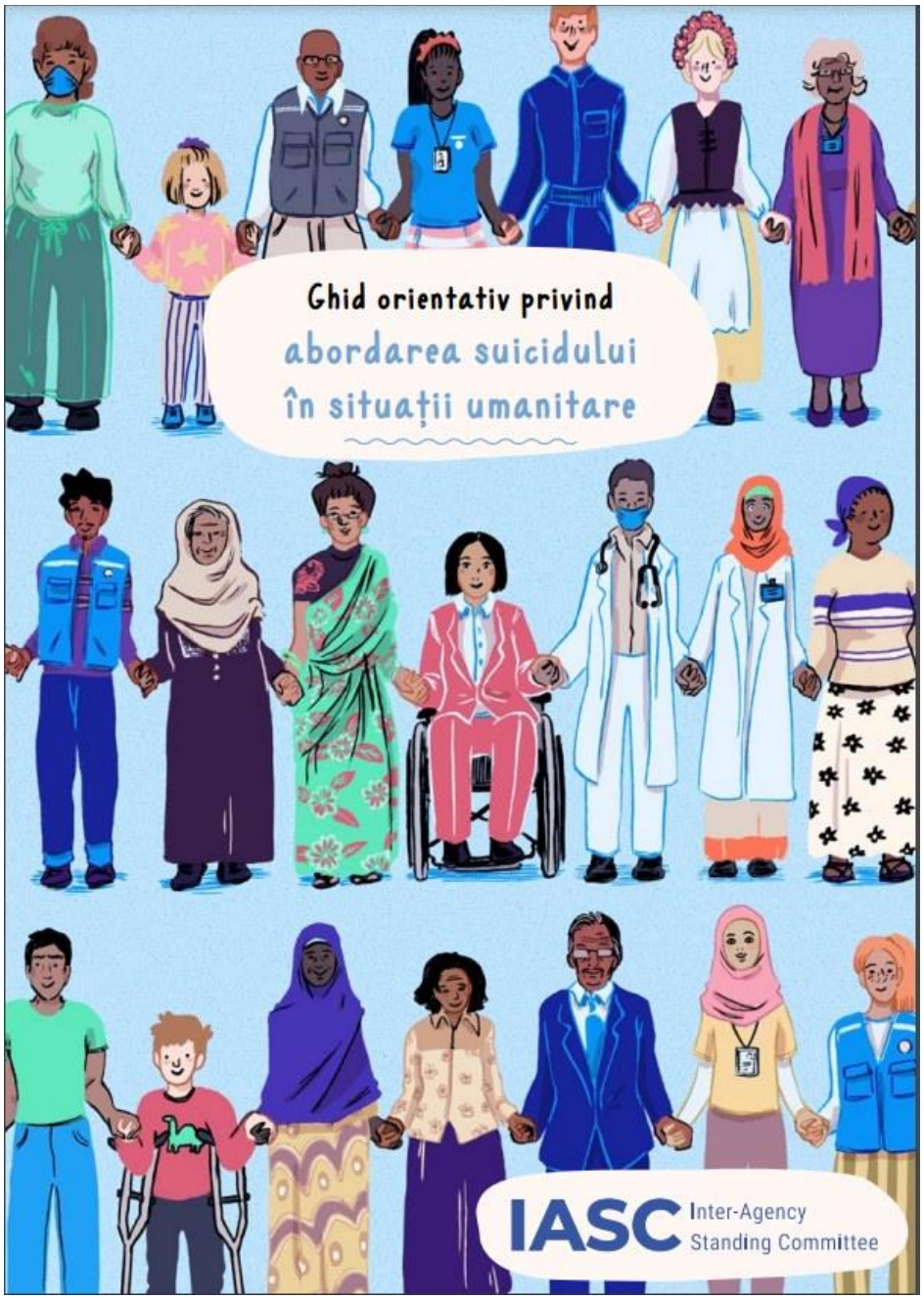
Topics included challenges Ukrainian refugees face in accessing healthcare, the mediators' role in improving access, and the inclusion of cultural components to ensure person-centred, culturally sensitive care.

This training is part of the ongoing cooperation between WHO and IOM on improving access to healthcare services for Ukrainian refugees in Romania funded by the EU.

World Suicide Prevention Day 2024

In recognition of World Suicide Prevention Day 2024 and aligned with the theme "Changing the Narrative on Suicide," WHO Romania launched a social media campaign to raise awareness on suicide prevention and to emphasise the importance of openness, understanding, and support.

The country office also published the Romanian translation of the IASC Guidance Note on Addressing Suicide in Humanitarian Settings to mark the occasion, making this critical guidance readily accessible to all health stakeholders in the country.

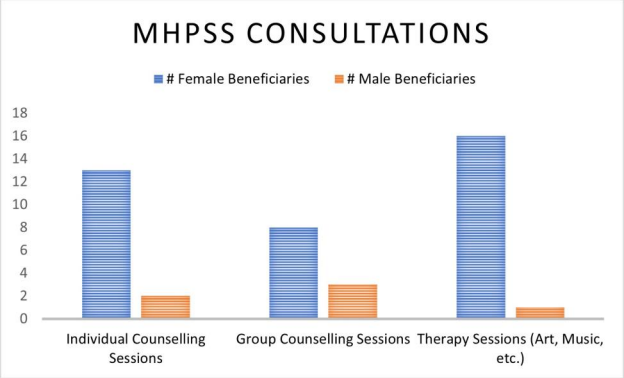


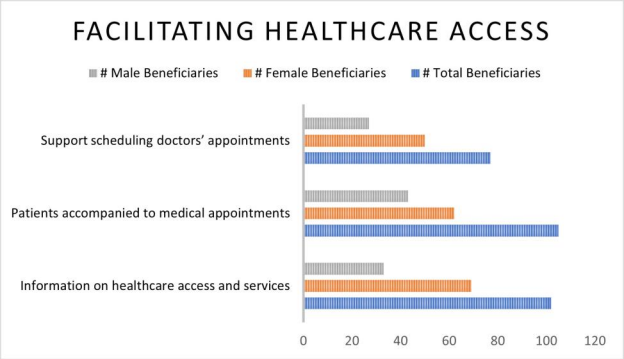
Oral Health Promotion

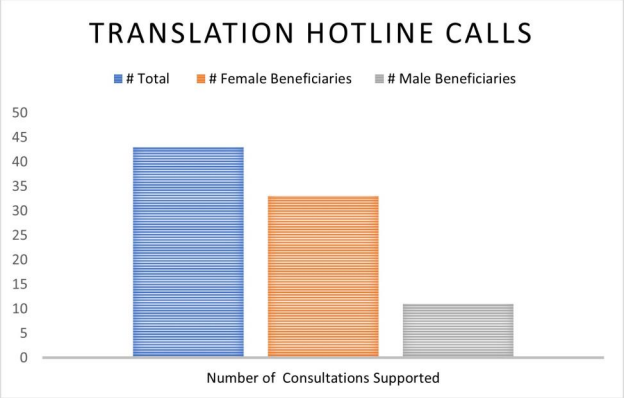
WHO Romania developed materials on oral health and hygiene, as well as healthy nutrition, as part of a campaign for school children aged 6-14 years which will be conducted in cooperation with the Iasi Public Health Directorate and under the patronage of the Ministry of Health and the National Public Health Institute.

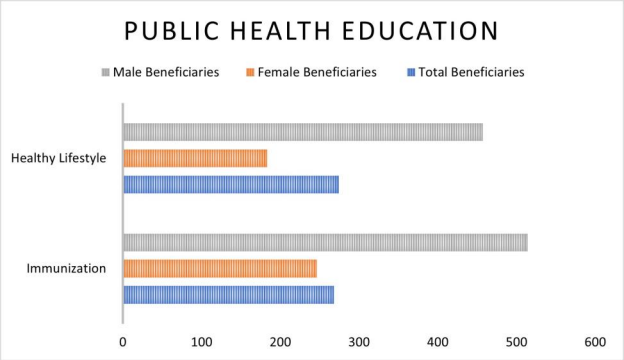
Data Insights September 2024

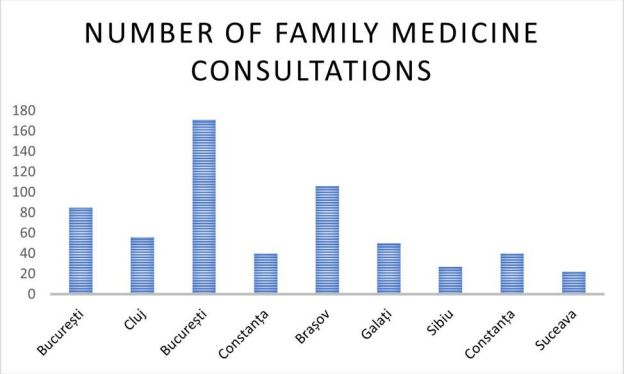
- WHO cultural mediators directly supported 284 Ukrainians with accessing national healthcare services and delivered 18 individual psychosocial support sessions as well as 43 art and music group therapy sessions.
- The WHO translation hotline provided 43 translations for medical consultations throughout September, including 3 emergency consultations. 33 Ukrainian women and 11 men aged from under-18 to +55 years benefited from the free-of-charge services.
- WHO supported family doctors in Brasov, Bucharest, Cluj, Constanta, Galati, Sibiu and Suceava delivered 297 primary healthcare consultations to Ukrainian refugees including 18 essential childhood vaccinations for Ukrainian children.
- The WHO County team conducted educational health campaigns on immunisation, healthy lifestyles, mental health and GBV for 542 beneficiaries and reached over 70,000 Ukrainians with online health promotion messages.

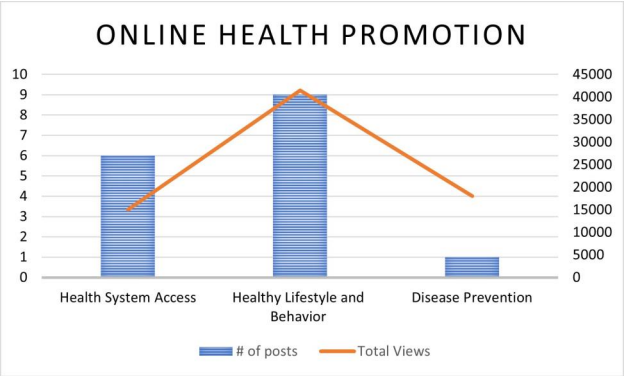



FACILITATING HEALTHCARE ACCESS
Male Beneficiaries
Female Beneficiaries
Total Beneficiaries
Support scheduling doctors' appointments
Patients accompanied to medical appointments
Information on healthcare access and services
0
20
40
60
80
100
120


TRANSLATION HOTLINE CALLS
Total
Female Beneficiaries
Male Beneficiaries
50
45
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
Number of Consultations Supported


PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION
Male Beneficiaries
Female Beneficiaries
Total Beneficiaries
Healthy Lifestyle
Immunization
0
100
200
300
400
500
600


NUMBER OF FAMILY MEDICINE CONSULTATIONS
180
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
Bucureşti
Cluj
Bucureşti
Constanta
Braşov
Galati
Sibiu
Constanta
Suceava



National Recovery & Resilience Plan (NRRP)

Human Resources for Health

WHO Romania supported a meeting between MoH and health stakeholders in Azuga to discuss measures on the retention and distribution of heath workers in rural and underserved areas across the country.

Insights and best practice examples from national, international and WHO experts contributed to fruitful discussions and the meeting concluded with policy recommendations to advance HRH reforms in Romania.

Quality of Care

The Technical Guidebook for quality-of-care indicators to support implementation of the Health Quality Fund in Romania has been published[1] on the WHO website by the WHO Quality of Care and Patient Safety Office in Athens. The document aims to support public sector hospitals with the implementation of evidence-based indicators and methodologies for data collection.

[1] https://www.who.int/romania/publications/i/item/WHO-EURO-2024-9873-49645-74343

Country Office Events & Communications

Convening of Strategic Partners 2024

WHO Romania hosted its annual 'Convening of Partners' meeting on 13 September 2024 as part of the country office's ongoing initiative to provide national and international stakeholders with an update on its operations, improve WHO's partnerships in Romania, and build a foundation for future collaborations.

The event was attended by Presidential Adviser Prof Paun, Minister of Health Prof Rafila and NIPH Director Dr Parvu. Further esteemed guests included senior officials from the Ministry of Health, State Secretary of Emergency Situations Dr Arfat, and the Ambassadors from Albania, the Republic of Korea,

Qatar, and Switzerland, as well as many other members from the international community. WR Dr Clarinval, Dr Weiler from WHO EURO, Prof Paun, Prof Rafila and Dr Parvu provided opening remarks, followed by WHO Romania technical officers providing operational updates and an open floor discussion.

Integrating GBV Modules in Medical Education

The University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Iuliu Hațieganu" in Cluj Napoca and WHO Romania hosted a workshop on 27 September, advocating for the inclusion of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) modules in pre-service medical curricula.

The event emphasised the need for specialised training for future doctors so that they are able to effectively care for and support GBV survivors. Melanie Hyde, Technical Officer from WHO EURO, highlighted GBV as a pressing public health issue and the importance of overcoming health system gaps and stigma.

NIPH Conference on Health and the Environment

WHO Romania participated in the 14th edition of the Conference on Health and the Environment organised by National Public Health Institute's (NPIH) between 25-27 September.

Focusing on global trends in age distribution—driven by shifts in fertility, mortality rates, and migration—WHO highlighted the need to rethink and redesign local policies to address both current and anticipated demographic changes. The intervention stressed the importance of collaboration to develop effective strategies for urban and community settings, ensuring that structures and services are adaptable, accessible, and inclusive for older people with diverse needs and capacities, particularly in emergency contexts.

Stay in Touch

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