

UN Agencies in Romania celebrate 77 years of UN Charter and pledge continuing their support for Ukrainian refugees

BUCHAREST, 24 October 2022 - UN agencies in Romania celebrate today 77 years since the UN Charter entered into force. This year's anniversary is overshadowed by the war in Ukraine that started exactly 8 months ago, on 24 February. As hundreds of thousands of refugees entered Romania during the first days of the crisis, the UN agencies mobilized fast to support the national authorities in the refugee response, along with local communities and numerous civil society organizations, while continuing existing, long-term programmes in Romania.

In 1945, representatives of 50 countries met in San Francisco at the United Nations Conference on International Organization to draw up the United Nations Charter. The United Nations officially came into existence on 24 October 1945, when the Charter had been ratified by a majority of signatories.

"On UN Day, we reaffirm UNICEF's commitment to work tirelessly, together with the Romanian government, UN agencies, local and county authorities, civil society partners, so that no child in Romania is left behind and their rights are fulfilled. All children must benefit from essential services, quality inclusive education and protection. As 41.5% of Romanian children are still at risk of poverty or social exclusion, we must strengthen our common response to address structural issues affecting children's lives and the future of Romania", said **Anna Riatti, the UNICEF Representative in Romania.**

"The ongoing refugee situations across the globe, including in Romania, is a reminder of the need for collective efforts for protection of the most vulnerable people fleeing war and persecution. In support of the national response led by of the Government of Romania, UNHCR leads the Inter-Agency coordination mechanism which includes the UN agencies and civil society partners. UNHCR is enhancing its assistance for the refugees hosted in Romania, with particular consideration to the upcoming harsh winter", said **Pablo Zapata, UNHCR Representative in Romania.**

"The shocks induced by the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine have exposed structural vulnerabilities in Romania's economy challenging the country's growth and prosperity achieved over the past two decades. Policymakers need to carefully balance demand- and supply-side measures to confront the crisis and realize Romania's potential. On the demand side, fiscal consolidation efforts remain critical along with better targeted support to vulnerable groups. On the supply-side, policymakers need to ease the constraints that confront labor and energy markets, and trade networks. Marking its 30 years of partnership with Romania this year, the World Bank will continue to work with the Government of Romania to help the country navigate through the ongoing crises and progress towards a more sustainable, inclusive, and green economic model," said **Anna Akhalkatsi, Country Manager for Romania and Hungary, The World Bank.**

*"This year has proven to be a challenge for the whole region, nevertheless IOM Romania, its donors, and the NGO partners have stepped-up and scaled activities to provide a wide range of tailored assistance to those fleeing Ukraine, from safe transport to distributing life-saving items and facilitating access to accommodation, health and mental health support, education. IOM capitalized on its experience in providing integrated assistance to people on the move to promote the inclusion of refugees and third country nationals (TCNs) within their new communities and to complement the efforts of the authorities in responding to crisis", the **Head of Office for IOM Romania, Mircea Mocanu**, said.*

Dr Caroline Clarinval, WHO Representative and Head of WHO Country Office in Romania explained that the only alternative we have to the horrors of the war is peace: *"Seventy-seven years ago, the nations of the world come together to establish that there is only one remedy for the disease of war: peace. On this very special day, we have three key messages the World Health Organization (WHO) wishes to share: first, we must continue to reinforce our support for the people from Ukraine. This also requires preparing our own health system to respond to the needs of the Romanian population as well as the Ukrainian refugees. We thank the Romanian people, the volunteers and the Government for their incredible solidarity and continued support over the past eight months.*

Second, the COVID-19 pandemic is not over, and flu cases are also on the rise. The viruses keep circulating and affect far too many people. We must be prepared for an increased burden of respiratory diseases this autumn and winter and protect those most vulnerable.

Third, we should not let our guards down now but continue our efforts to be better prepared to respond to the next health emergency. We cannot let another crisis jeopardize the hard earned gains related to ensuring better health and better protection for our people. Because it all comes down to one thing: health. If we are healthy, we can engage in many other activities and things we enjoy doing", concluded Dr Clarinval.

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About UNICEF

UNICEF is present in Romania and in 190 other countries and territories to promote the survival and development of children from early childhood to adolescence. In Romania,



UNICEF works together with key stakeholders such as the Government, the Parliament, local authorities, civil society, the private sector, national and international partners and the media to ensure access for all children to quality early education and to school, to protect adolescents and monitor children's rights, to social protection and to the mobilization of resources in the benefit of children. For more information about UNICEF and its work, visit <https://www.unicef.org/romania/ro>.

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About UNHCR

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, leads international action to protect people forced to flee their homes because of conflict and persecution. We deliver life-saving assistance like shelter, food and water, help safeguard fundamental human rights, and develop solutions that ensure people have a safe place to call home where they can build a better future. We also work to ensure that stateless people are granted a nationality.

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About WHO

Established in January 1991, WHO Country Office in Romania mobilizes and shares technical expertise on a wide variety of topics promoting the health and well-being for all.

WHO has been engaging in strengthening primary health care and promoting fair access to essential health care services for all; investing in mother and child care, including family planning; supporting nursing, mental health, immunization, as well as the prevention and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases. Following the onset of the war in Ukraine, WHO also engaged in supporting the Government of Romania in its response to providing essential health care services for the refugees.

The Country Office also aims at providing its support to the Ministry of Health and Romanian Government in contextualizing health policies, improving the health of the population and responding to health emergencies. For more information about WHO and our work, follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

About IOM



Established in 1951, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration. IOM works closely with governmental, intergovernmental, and non-governmental partners to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need.

IOM established its operations in Romania in 1992 and provides across the country a comprehensive response to the humanitarian needs of migrants, internally displaced persons, returnees and host communities through humanitarian direct assistance, information and counseling, integration activities, and a variety of other efforts. Learn more about IOM in Romania our website, [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)

About The World Bank

The World Bank is part of the World Bank Group. With 189 member countries, staff from more than 170 countries, and offices in over 130 locations, the World Bank Group works in every major area of development focusing on sustainable solutions that reduce poverty and build shared prosperity.

The World Bank is present in Romania since 1991. Through the Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for [FY19-23](#), the World Bank supports Romania's efforts to accelerate structural reforms and convergence with the European Union. Engagement over this period has an overarching goal of strengthening Romania's institutions and aims at advancing poverty reduction and promoting shared prosperity through three pillars: (i) Equal opportunities for all; (ii) Private sector growth and competitiveness; and (iii) Resilience to shocks. [Read more](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#).