Romania

November 2023

Since the escalation of the international armed conflict in Ukraine which has forced some 5.9 million people to flee their homes seeking safety, protection and assistance across Europe, more than 5.1 million border crossings into Romania have been recorded. The Government and partners including civil society, the private sector, volunteers and international organizations 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 2023 Romania RRP is aligned with the Government National Plan of Measures (NPM) for the protection and inclusion of refugees from Ukraine.

UNHCR is leading the Inter-Agency platform comprising 34 appealing partners implementing humanitarian activities for the refugees from Ukraine. As part of the consultative process, a consultation meeting for the 2024 RRP occurred on 8 November, involving high-level government officials. RRP sectors presented priorities and strategic directions, enabling the 37 RRP partners to include valuable suggestions before finalizing the 2024 RRP.

KEY FIGURES* (as of end November)

5.9 M

Individual refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe

5.1 M

Border crossing into Romania

81 K

Refugees from Ukraine remaining in Romania

149 K

Refugees who obtained temporary protection in Romania

57%

Of refugees who obtained temporary protection are women and girls

2023 REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN (RRP) FOR THE UKRAINE SITUATION**

USD 153.6 M

Financial requirements for the Romania response***

USD 78.2 M

Founding received for the Romania response****

34

Appealing partners involved in the Romania RRP

*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 2023** for a breakdown of sectoral response priorities. ***See the **Romania Chapter of Ukraine Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan 2023**. ****See the **Refugee Response Financial Tracking (RRFT), Romania**

Operational context

Since 24 February 2022, more than 5.9 million people from Ukraine have sought refuge across Europe. As of 30 November 2023, more than 5.1 million border crossings from Ukraine and Moldova into Romania have been recorded by border police, with some 81,072 people choosing to remain in the country. Around 148,736 Ukrainian (147,293) and Third Country Nationals (1,443) have obtained temporary protection, which enables access to healthcare, education and the labour market. The number of refugees from Ukraine present in Romania has been decreasing, from its peak of 113,009 in February, to 81,072 (as of 30 November).

On 8 November, a consultation meeting for the 2024 RRP with the government counterparts took place in Bucharest. During the meeting, the RRP sectors presented their 2024 priorities and strategic directions to the State Counsellor at the Chancellery of the Prime Minister, Secretary of State and Head of the Department for Emergency Situations (DSU), Secretary of State for Education, as well as representatives from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection as part of the consultative RRP development process. During the event, all working groups within the Romania's inter-agency mechanism presented their priorities and interventions for the next year. The working session facilitated a collaborative effort, allowing the 37 RRP partners to incorporate valuable suggestions before the finalization of the 2024 RRP.

On 16 November, the first Working Group for the Inclusion of Refugees was launched in Suceava by UNHCR and the Prefecture of Suceava within the framework of the RRP. The event was attended by 60 persons representing local authorities, public services, local and international NGOs and UN agencies.

Spotlight on: HIAS welcome the stranger, protect the refugee

HIAS is a global humanitarian aid and advocacy organization, rooted in Jewish ethics. HIAS focuses on aiding forcibly displaced individuals worldwide. With extensive experience in enhancing employment opportunities for refugees and vulnerable populations, HIAS prioritizes Economic Inclusion alongside prevention and response for Gender-Based Violence (GBV), legal, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) globally.

Since May 2022, HIAS has allocated emergency funds to four Romanian CSOs, addressing shelter, basic needs, GBV and MHPSS for the Ukraine response. Re-entering Romania in September 2022 after over 70 years, HIAS collaborates with local partners to implement economic inclusion, MHPSS and community engagement projects. HIAS has been actively involved in economic inclusion activities in Bucharest and Constanța. Focused on establishing relationships with "friendly" employers, the organization strives to provide dignified and swift employment while adhering to lawful employment practices. These include:

KFC has a workforce of 40 employees in Bucharest, Constanța and Galați, with numbers on the rise. Refugees are esteemed members of the teams, receiving continuous praise.

Nova Poshta, an Ukrainian shipping company, made its entry into the Romanian market in late 2022. Since then, HIAS has actively facilitated information dissemination, selection and employment processes for over 100 refugees.

HIAS successfully integrated refugees into the team of Uber drivers in Bucharest and is extending this program to other cities, including Constanța and Iași. Approximately 10 individuals have been placed in full employment, with HIAS providing support through registrations, exams and informal meetings with the teams.

HIAS is partnering with SkillLab, an award-winning start-up that assists refugees in translating life skills and experiences into marketable employment skills. SkillLab, a CV-building and skills analysis tool, has enabled the HIAS team to help over 250 beneficiaries create professional resumes, enhancing their access to the Romanian labour market.

HIAS believes in second chances and a pivotal aspect of its economic inclusion programming is providing professional training to enable rapid employment. In 2023, the organization supported 30 individuals with six months of IT training (GO IT), offering a 90% likelihood of employment in network companies. Additionally, HIAS provided training for 30 individuals in the Karolina beauty school program and trained another 30 individuals for the building industry.

Some of HIAS's trusted partners who are actively participating in the implementation of essential approaches to the refugee response:

The Refugee Women Community Center in Bucharest, coordinated jointly with ANAIS, serves as a hub for refugee women to gather, foster community bonds and gradually integrate into Romanian society. HIAS's initiatives include informative sessions on legal rights, economic inclusion, support groups and diverse social activities, all tailored to support the expanding community of refugees residing in Bucharest. Contact: Str. Trifoi 5, Bucharest, elena.arhire@asociatia-anais.ro.

Centrul de Resurse Civice (CRC), operating in Constanța, spearheads economic inclusion activities in collaboration with HIAS. The centre initiated a pilot program for refugee economic inclusion in Constanța, supported by various partners. Since spring 2023, HIAS and CRC have managed a call centre providing economic inclusion information, conducted numerous sessions, organized job fairs and offered case management for over 1,000 clients. The team has also replicated HIAS's employer-focused initiatives from Bucharest for the Constanța community. Contact: Boulevard I. C. Brătianu 5, Constanța, cosmin.barzan@gmail.com.

The Galați Youth Program, led by the Association Help Ukrainians, fosters youth integration in Galați by bringing together Romanian and Ukrainian youth through sports. Serving as a lifeline for displaced Ukrainian youth facing isolation, the project has revitalized a sense of purpose for both Romanian and Ukrainian participants. More info: https://hias.org/news/hockey-helps-ukrainian-refugee-children-romania/. Contact: Mykolay.Latushkin@damen.com

In addition, HIAS offers a diverse range of services, including direct support and interpretation for refugees seeking employment, as well as 'corporate social responsibility' strategy development for companies.

Protection

Achievements and Impact

- Protection monitoring and counselling remain key activities by protection partners to ensure newly arrived refugees are informed of their rights and available services in Romania. In November, the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR) provided information and counselling remotely through its helplines to 261 refugees and supported 6,221 refugees from Ukraine on protection and integration at the border crossing points and in Suceava, Iași, Galați, Constanța, Bucharest and Brașov. CNRR also conducted three community consultations with refugees in Suceava and Constanța, providing detailed information on the disability recognition procedure, language learning opportunities and methods, as well as gathering complaints regarding access to healthcare services and other socio-economic rights.
- Save the Children (SC) provided services to support 5,606 children and adults from Ukraine at the three border crossings (Siret, Sighet, Isaccea), 2 transit points (Gara de Nord and RomExpo), 5 GII Reception Centres (Rădăuți, Galați, Șomcuta Mare, Timișoara, Bucharest) and in the Integrated services and counselling centres from Bucharest, Constanța, Tulcea, Galați, Iași, Suceava, Baia Mare, Târgu Mureș and Timișoara. Most of those assisted received informational and legal counselling, facilitation for accommodation process, support in obtaining temporary protection permits, opening bank accounts, support in obtaining certificates needed to access the government support programme, language support (translations) for other organisations and institutions (Red Cross, Maltese Service and Blue Dot), providing services at the border.
- Save the Children is also present in other areas through mobile teams offering similar services in Botoșani, Sighișoara, Arad, Alba Iulia, Bistrița and Călărași. In Fălticeni, SC team held an information session for eight refugee women and one man about refugee rights under Romanian law and forms of preventing discrimination of vulnerable groups.
- SC organized an information session in collaboration with DGASPC Suceava to help refugees obtain disability certificates for access to social protection schemes.
- During November, PATRIR organized eight legal consultation sessions in Cluj-Napoca and observed a heightened awareness among refugees regarding their rights and legal procedures in Romania.
- Terre des hommes (Tdh) continued its collaborative efforts in Bucharest, Brașov and Constanța, working in conjunction with its partner, the Civic Resource Centre. Tdh have now fully started working with its partners KATYA in Brasov, City Makers in Baia Mare and ROUA Community in Suceava. Tdh's multifaceted efforts encompassed the provision of adapted information, referrals, translation services, transportation to essential services, Individual Protection Assistance (IPA), MHPSS and educational activities, targeting both children and adults. In total, 104 adults benefitted from group or individual MHPSS session, while 187 adults received IPA, benefitting from food provision, medical appointments, assistance with legal documentation, translation services, as well as transportation to essential service providers.
- To enhance local cooperation between NGOs, refugees and authorities, CNRR and Migrant Integration Center (MIC) organized a coordination meeting on 10 November in Brașov. Representatives from the county Health Insurance House (CJAS), the General Immigration Inspectorate, the county School Inspectorate (ISJ), the University of Transylvania, Brașov City Council and local NGOs discussed challenges faced by those under temporary and international protection. Solutions and complaint mechanisms for issues like healthcare and education access were identified. The meeting improved information sharing and coordination mechanisms while exploring potential legislative changes for refugee integration, including housing, language and professional skills recognition.

- On 22 November, UNHCR together with the Council of Europe (CoE) held a roundtable on “Strengthening the protection of children and survivors of gender-based violence in the context of refugee flows in Romania”. The event was held as a follow-up to the fact-finding mission to Romania of the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the CoE on Migration and Refugees that took place in December 2022. The event was attended by around 60 representatives from central and local authorities, international organisations, NGOs and lawyers. They had the opportunity to take stock of the progress made on the CoE recommendations on the protection of unaccompanied children and GBV survivors in refugee flows in Romania and to learn which global and regional tools and standards – including European Court of Human Rights jurisprudence – exist in these areas.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Protection partners identified the increasing backlog of payments within the government housing support program as the main concern for most beneficiaries of temporary protection. As many rely on information through Telegram channels, risks of misinformation remain high, contributing to increasing tensions between the refugee and host communities.
- UNHCR and partners persisted in advocating for improved access to social assistance programs for individuals holding TP permits. The absence of an address reference in the document has, in practice, posed significant obstacles to accessing various social programs, notably child allowance. Multiple meetings were conducted with authorities, demonstrating their strong commitment to resolving this issue.
- RRP partners report that the lack of emergency or government-supported housing continues to put a strain on non-governmental shelters in Bucharest, Brașov, Galați, Iași, Constanța and Suceava.

Child Protection

Achievements and Impact

- UNICEF worked in collaboration with the National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men (ANES), UNHCR, UNFPA and UNWOMEN to deliver child protection modules as part of a GBV (Gender-Based Violence) case management training within a Training of Trainers initiative. In addition to extending the training to the local level, the next steps involve developing guidelines to support the implementation of the existing GBV case management framework.
- In efforts to strengthen the child protection system, Save the Children (SC) provided training for 69 participants from local authorities and NGOs in Maramures, Galati and Bucharest on child protection in emergencies and psychological first aid.
- UNICEF organized a gathering involving around 70 participants, including representatives from national, county, and local authorities, NGOs, and key partners, focused on transitioning from the "Blue Dot" approach to a "Blue Grid" model in response to the prolonged war in Ukraine and evolving displacement challenges. The Blue Grid strategy aims to establish a sustainable network of professionals and service providers, collaborating with local authorities at the county level to enhance accessibility to quality services. The gathering aimed to document and guide participants through this transition, emphasizing the development of updated cross-sectoral emergency preparedness county plans. The subsequent steps involve finalizing county transition plans for 2024 that will serve as crucial tools for coordination, response, advocacy, and fundraising efforts.

- Partners continued to provide different types of child protection services including case management support. Save the Children (SC) assisted 2,049 children and 3,557 adults from Ukraine through integrated hubs and counseling centers in various Romanian cities. Among them, 366 children and their families received case management services. SC also conducted parenting education sessions for 51 refugees in Baia Mare, addressing challenges faced by single mothers and parent-child relationships. Additionally, in Suceava, English classes for 23 refugee children covered topics such as safe touch, bullying, online safety and gender equality.
- Terre des hommes (Tdh) and partners' interventions reached a total of 236 children across Bucharest, Brasov, Constanta, Suceava and Baia Mare through MHPSS sessions, educational activities, information dissemination, referrals and IPA. Tdh's efforts encompassed mobile teams, Resilience Innovation Facilities (RIFs) in Bucharest and Brasov and various programs in schools. RIF activities in Brasov benefited 69 children while a large sporting event brought joy to 420 children. The organization's approach covered afterschool programs, group MHPSS sessions, IPA and English language courses, impacting a significant number of children in need.
- World Vision (WV) enrolled 750 children in Happy Bubbles Socio-Educational Centres across six locations in Bucharest, Cluj, Constanta, Iasi, Suceava and Rm. Valcea. Utilizing a mix of child protection and MHPSS activities. Bi-monthly integration events conducted in collaboration with local communities, schools and NGOs brought together 331 children from Ukrainian and host communities, fostering better communication skills, cross-cultural friendship and a deeper sense of empathy and community.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Children residing far from their schools may be at increased risk of school, drop-outs. Educators should recognize, assist and refer children at risk of dropping out to social services.

Gender-Based Violence

Achievements and Impact

- To strengthen the national systems, , a GBV case management Training of Trainers (ToT) was jointly organized by UN Women, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO and ANES. The training was conducted to 29 DJASPC social workers across the country as well to frontline staff from civil society working on GBV response. The training invited GBV actors to learn from Interagency GBV Case Management guidelines, national frameworks and discuss on the gaps that they face in handling cases.
- Promoting gender equality continues to be a core priority in the refugee response. Save the Children (SC) has strengthened collaboration with the National Authority for Equality of Chances and other NGOs specializing in preventing and addressing domestic violence. Aligning with the global 16 Days of Activism Against GBV campaign, SC developed targeted key messages for both staff and beneficiaries, emphasizing awareness and local inter-agency collaboration for the protection of GBV survivors.
- Sensiblu Foundation (SF) organized roundtables in Galați and Constanța titled *Resilience, Adaptation and Integration in solidarity with refugees from Ukraine - United to prevent and respond to Gender-Based Violence.* The round tables were also in line with the 16 days of activism to "UNITE! Invest to Prevent Violence against Women & Girls" campaign. The County Police Inspectorat, DGASPC, ANITP, IGI, Coast Guard, Forensic Medicine, civil society and refugees were invited to discuss progress, challenges and way forward to discuss on the prevention and response to GBV. To followup on actions points discussed in Cluj roundtable in October, SF organized a training on GBV and communication to survivors a total of

36 social workers and DJASPC staff. SF has also organized Empowerment through Self-Defence training sessions in Constanța on the 25 November, at Mika Fitness Studio and the Center for Civic Resources, attended by a total of 26 participants.

- SF along with 10 organizations from different countries, joined the Safecity platform initiative started by Red Dot Foundation Global. The online initiative aims to collect and analyse data on sexual violence and street harassment in urban settings and uses a participatory method to gather information from community members, particularly women and girls, on incidents of harassment in public and private spaces. The platform provides a safe space for women and girls to report incidents of street harassment and find resources and support. The platform is available both in Romanian and Ukrainian.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- RRP partners recognized the need to enhance the capacity authorities and NGOs to deliver gender-sensitive and inclusive services. Specifically highlighted is the practitioners' ongoing request for guidance on regulations and frameworks, particularly in addressing cases of intimate partner violence (IPV) survivors.

Education

Achievements and Impact

- Overall, 33,865 refugee children from Ukraine (RCU) are now recorded as officially enrolled in the Romanian education system, including 10,027 who have acquired the full pupil status and more than 19,700 children and youths who are engaging in Romanian schools with a transitioning status as audients/observers (Source: Ministry of Education, Romania. November 2023). In considering latest UNHCR data on beneficiaries from Temporary Protection in Romania, this suggests that about 72 per cent of RCU are now enrolled with the Romanian education system. This increase is largely as a result of the reform introduced by the Government in April 2023, making it now mandatory for RCU to enrol in Romanian schools or in non-formal education services available locally, in order to qualify for social benefits under the temporary protection scheme. 71 education hubs have also been officially registered with the Ministry of Education, providing alternative or complementary learning opportunities - including learning continuity by the Ukrainian curriculum - to reportedly an additional 9,415 RCU. While no official data is available as yet on the effective participation of RCU registered with Romanian schools, information gathered from several county school inspectorates suggests that up to one third of all RCU registered as audients have been attending Romanian schools on a regular basis since the new school year has started in September 2023, with a significant proportion attending school only from time to time for now and participating in education hubs, online learning and language courses parallelly, at least until they can master some stronger Romanian language skills in order to engage meaningfully with learning by the Romanian curriculum, with Romanian language as main medium of instruction.
- Support continues to be provided in this context to ensure that all RCU 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 facilitating increasingly access to Romanian language classes to support RCU's integration and transitioning to the national education system. RRP partners continue to promote access primarily to classroom-type education modalities that encourage face-to-face learning and personal interactions, as well as to language courses in Romanian, MHPSS and activities fostering local integration and only facilitate access to online learning (in a complementary or alternative manner) when necessary. Most

RRP partners offering alternative or complementary learning support through education hubs do also require increasingly and facilitate in most instances, RCU's registration with the Romanian education system and their participation in Romanian language classes, hence preparing RCU for progressive integration into the national education system.

- In November, efforts have mainly focused on local coordination arrangements to facilitate increased access to Romanian language courses and on identifying options for RCUs having difficulties enrolling and participating fully in local Romanian schools or accessing alternative learning modalities. A number of discussions have also continued with national authorities on e.g. M&E systems and capacities, mutual recognition of studies, regulatory frameworks for the provision and certification of Romanian language courses delivered by local NGOs and possible support mechanisms to facilitate the integration of Ukrainian refugee teachers in the Romanian education system. On the latter, the Education Working Group has compiled an initial list of 162 Ukrainian refugee teachers and educators willing to be considered and supported to integrate the national education system, which was submitted to the Ministry of Education for consideration.
- World Vision continued to support refugee children providing preschool and after school services in eight socio-educational centres (Happy Bubbles) in six locations in Romania. In November, almost 800 children benefited from these services as a result. Preschool activities comprise pre-literacy, pre-numeracy and foundational literacy skills on a daily basis. Afterschool activities primarily aim to support homework and develop life skills, including reading club, financial education club, arts and crafts to name a few. Also, the beneficiaries that are attending the center, are supported to attend online classes (formal Ukrainian educational activities). Romanian Language lessons continue within the Happy Bubbles 4h/week to ensure integration of Ukrainian children and their caregivers in the local community. In addition, CP&MHPSS services are offered at the centres to promote integration through various events and to promote the well-being of those affected. World Vison also continued to provide support to deliver formal Romanian educational activities (preschool, primary and secondary) dedicated to 60 refugee children enrolled at the Finish School in Bucharest in collaboration with a local partner, ACCB.
- In Sibiu, SUSINIMA has continued to operate the 'SIPRI Education Hub' as a bridging programme to support the progressive integration of Ukrainian refugee children in Romanian public schools, with additional language support for Ukrainian children and adults. The program covers remedial education, homework assistance and extracurricular activities, promoting holistic child development. In November, 109 children have engaged in Romanian language courses, 110 in education support activities, 83 in socio-cultural activities and 490 in play-based activities.
- Four Change Association and the UTCB Transit Center for Refugees have provided social and educational support to 40 children in November, including non-formal education activities focusing on remedial education (in maths and science mainly), learning of Ukrainian language and history, Romanian language classes, as well as theatre and music therapy. Through the UTCB Kindergarten, 6 Ukrainian refugee children have also continued to engage in preschool education services.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Most Ukrainian refugee children are currently attending Romanian schools, concurrently continuing their education through the Ukrainian system via online or home-schooling arrangements, sometimes facilitated in education hubs. Despite enrollment, significant language barriers persist, with limited opportunities for accessing Romanian language courses and sufficient learning support materials. These challenges impede the effective participation of children in the school environment.
- Ukrainian refugee children and young people face overall limited opportunities to interact with their Romanian peers, a crucial aspect for fostering social cohesion and promoting effective integration.
- Shortage of spaces in creches and kindergartens for children under 5 persists in both large cities and rural areas without educational hubs, impacting parents' ability to seek employment.
- Accelerating the provision of Romanian language courses for both children and adults is crucial for social integration and successful transition into the national education system. Coordination with County School Inspectorates is essential for sustained efforts throughout the school year.

- Several communities and schools continue to express the need to assign cultural mediators (Ukrainian speaking educators who can facilitate communication with parents, children and teachers) in schools in order to support the effective integration of Ukrainian refugee children in Romanian schools. Such arrangements could also help school communities improve social cohesion.
- Clarity in procedures for the certification and mutual recognition of studies is still expected. The bilateral agreement between Romania and Ukraine, signed earlier this year, is undergoing ratification in Romania to address this issue.

Health and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- Cultural mediators continue to play an essential role in ensuring the health and wellbeing of the Ukrainian diaspora in Romania. During November, WHO cultural mediators delivered 260 psychosocial support sessions via both in-person and online format across Bucharest, Constanta, Tg Mures, Cluj and Brasov. They further organized over 40 hours of art therapy and supported the activities of a Ukrainian choir in Romania. Activities such as these are highly effective at addressing stress and anxiety within the Ukrainian community.
- Significant information gaps remain for refugees seeking to access healthcare. WHO cultural mediators provided 166 consultations on how to navigate the Romanian health system and provided interpretation assistance for two beneficiaries to attend medical appointments. In parallel, Save the Children cultural and medical mediators organized 11 information sessions for 80 Ukrainian refugees in Bucharest, Suceava, Iasi and Brasov on topics such as health services for Ukrainian refugees in Romania, new-born care and first aid, childhood and HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccinations, breastfeeding, postpartum depression, reproductive health and sexually transmitted diseases. Save the Children additionally provided 410 individual counselling sessions for accessing medical services, distributed 36 medical vouchers, supported refugees with registering at family medicine clinics and facilitated communication between beneficiaries and medical staff through interpretation services and preparation of medical letters.
- WHO continued to support family doctors to deliver essential primary healthcare services to Ukrainians, with 284 consultations provided to Ukrainian patients during November.
- WHO midwives in Galati conducted a two-day mission to Constanta in November to address the Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) needs of the resident Ukrainian women. Eight consultations were delivered during this mission, with an additional 67 midwifery consultations provided in Galati. In addition, WHO midwives facilitated the booking for 39 appointments for women to access primary or specialized care.
- On 1 and 2 November, the WHO county coordinator visited Tg Mures and Baia Mare to promote vaccination uptake within the local refugee and host population. Members of the community were provided with information on vaccination safety and vaccine success stories. Over 150 flyers sharing key vaccine information were distributed.
- The NGO Mures Hub organized 68 MHPSS activities during this reporting period with each activity attended by 2-3 beneficiaries on average.
- As part of the ongoing pilot project “Creation of a functional intervention model for MHPSS in children and adolescents’ being run by UNICEF and the Romanian Angel Appeal (RAA) Foundation, partners mapped MHPSS resources and services for children in Bucharest. The RAA also organized focus groups of Ukrainian and Romanian children and adolescents as well as medical staff involved in their treatment. Findings from this initiative will support the development of a functional MHPSS model due to be launched in 2024.

- The Profilaxis Medical Aid Foundation provided 252 medical services to 135 beneficiaries via its mobile clinical service program in November. This program consists of four mobile family doctors with technical equipment such as echographs and EKGs who are also in direct real-time contact with a specialist doctor based in Timisoara.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Family doctors from several counties reported that refugee insurance status of some of their Ukrainian patients had been invalidated. This has created difficulties for doctors to provide free medical services or medicines to refugees and/or to refer them to medical specialists.

Basic Needs

Achievements and Impact

- Basic needs partners are working closely to ensure distribution of humanitarian assistance the most vulnerable refugee population in Romania, including their host communities.
- Save the Children remained dedicated to assisting refugees from Ukraine. Across ten locations, including Botosani, Bucharest, Galati, Iasi, Suceava, Maramures, Timiș, Bistrita Nasaud, Neamt and Tulcea, the organization has distributed 3,047 NFIs, including 463 hygiene kits and 58 school kits. In response to specific beneficiary requests, financial support has been extended to 641 individuals, addressing diverse needs such as education, basic necessities and health. Basic Needs support reached 210 individuals through flexible vouchers (valued at RON 200 each), enhancing their overall well-being with access to essentials like food and clothing. Additionally, 35 individuals received health support with vouchers worth 150 RON each, facilitating access to necessary medicines.
- UNHCR continued with delivering cash assistance to vulnerable refugees through its Cash for Protection Programme. To date, 4,151 vulnerable persons have received all four instalments and 8,871 have obtained their first three instalments, with 215 more beneficiaries set to receive their initial assistance shortly. Initiating on 6 November, UNHCR commenced the verification process for potential beneficiaries of its Cash for Winterization Programme, targeting a total of 6,500 vulnerable individuals to provide essential support during the winter months.
- UNHCR together with the Jesuit Refugee Service and Bucovina Institute distributed 3,484 core-relief items (CRIs), including bedding, clothing, hygiene items and thermoses to 1,764 vulnerable refugees in Galați, Sibiu, Suceava, Timiș and Vaslui counties and 1,132 core-relief items (CRIs), including bedding, clothing, hygiene items and thermoses to 844 vulnerable refugees in Bucharest, Galați, Suceava and Timiș counties.
- As of 30 November, 6,515 refugees from Ukraine have been given temporary accommodation in State facilities.

Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion

Achievements and Impact

- Ateliere Fara Frontiere (AFF) launched a digital competencies workshop series, whereby they are organizing 15 workshops over the course of a month in Bucharest and Brasov. This series aims to enhance refugees' digital skills and familiarity with Microsoft Office. The first workshop was held on 23 November, with nine refugees actively participating. On 14 November, AFF also started a 12-day intensive Romanian language course for 91 refugees from Ukraine. This training aims to boost the participants language skills to an A1/A2 proficiency level, which significantly increases their ability to earn a first job in Romania.
- HEKS EPER organized a 40-hour entrepreneurial skills development course in Cluj, aimed to support refugees with navigating the legal framework for starting-up a company in Romania and developing their business skills. HEKS EPER also continues to facilitate vocational trainings for refugees, to enhance their employability. This month, they organized a five-day hairdressing course with 10 participants and a five-day manicure course with five participants.
- On 15 November, Junior Achievement Romania, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO and Jobs4Ukraine organized a "job shadowing" event for 20 Ukrainian youth at the service hub RomExpo. Jobs4Ukraine conducted a 2-hour job readiness workshop for the group, with CV building and job search support. Thereafter, various focal points from the organizations present in Rom Expo spoke to the group about their career paths which led them to the humanitarian field, promoting the idea of developing healthy networks, exploring professional interests and pursuing your passions in life.
- Jobs4Ukraine continues to support refugees from Ukraine with accessing the Romanian labor market through their job platform (www.jobs4ukr.com), which 2,189 job seekers (+84 this month) and 156 employers (+6 this month) have signed-up to since the start of the year.
- Save the Children, in collaboration with Jobs4Ukraine, continues to support refugee job seekers with accessing the Romanian labor market. Currently, they are providing job search assistance to 66 beneficiaries and childcare support to five beneficiaries to facilitate their employment.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is a need for information and clear guidance on how refugees can qualify and apply for unemployment benefits in Romania.
- Further support is necessary to assist individuals with addressing and/or validating complaints they have with their employer especially in rural areas where access to NGOs and support services are more limited.

Cross-Cutting Priorities

Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

Achievements and Impact

- The PSEA Network facilitated a training session on PSEA to the benefit of 28 GBV service providers in the context of the GBV Case Management ToT, which was organized by UNHCR, ANES and UNWomen in collaboration with UNFPA and UNICEF from the 6 to 10 November 2023 in Bucharest.
- Save the Children has trained 88 local actors from Bucharest, Galați and Maramureș between 8 to 21 November on how to implement the methodology of safeguarding and PSEA in their work. The trainings were held in person and encouraged an interactive and participatory setting, allowing the participants to exchange their insights and challenges in their daily activities. The participants came from different sectors and institutions, such as social services, emergency services, libraries, NGOs and more. They learned about the concepts, methods and tools of safeguarding and PSEA and how to apply them in their contexts. They also identified the risks and developed a plan to make their programs safer for displaced adults and children.
- On 28 November, Terre des hommes (Tdh) conducted a refresher training to 18 staff members of its implementing partner, Centrul pentru Resurse Civice in Constanta. During the training, participants reviewed safeguarding including PSEA concepts and measures, learnt how to carry out a safeguarding risk assessment and developed skills on how to provide Psychological First Aid to the victim/survivor of a safeguarding incident.

Trafficking in Persons

Achievements and Impact

- In November, eLiberare had one online info session on Safe measures for 251 women in Romania. They also had one urban sitting on mental health for 11 Ukrainian women.
- From 27 to 28 November, IOM Moldova, in partnership with IOM Romania and in close collaboration with the General Prosecutors Office of the Republic of Moldova and the Directorate for Investigating Organized Crime and Terrorism from Romania (DIICOT), organized a workshop titled "Trafficking in human beings and the organization of illegal migration in the context of the war in Ukraine and the refugee crisis." Held at the DIICOT headquarters in Bucharest, the event brought together prosecutors and representatives from the General Inspectorates of Border Police specializing in trafficking in persons from both countries. Aligned with the project to strengthen capacities for the protection and socioeconomic inclusion of Ukrainian refugees, third-country nationals and host communities in Moldova, the workshop aimed to identify new challenges in managing cases of human trafficking and the organization of illegal migration, exchange best investigative practices considering challenges faced by both countries due to the refugee crisis, identify risks and vulnerabilities of refugees and displaced persons in the context of the war in Ukraine and enhance cooperation between specialized law enforcement structures from the Republic of Moldova and Romania in investigating trafficking in persons, including through joint investigation teams.

Youth and Adolescents

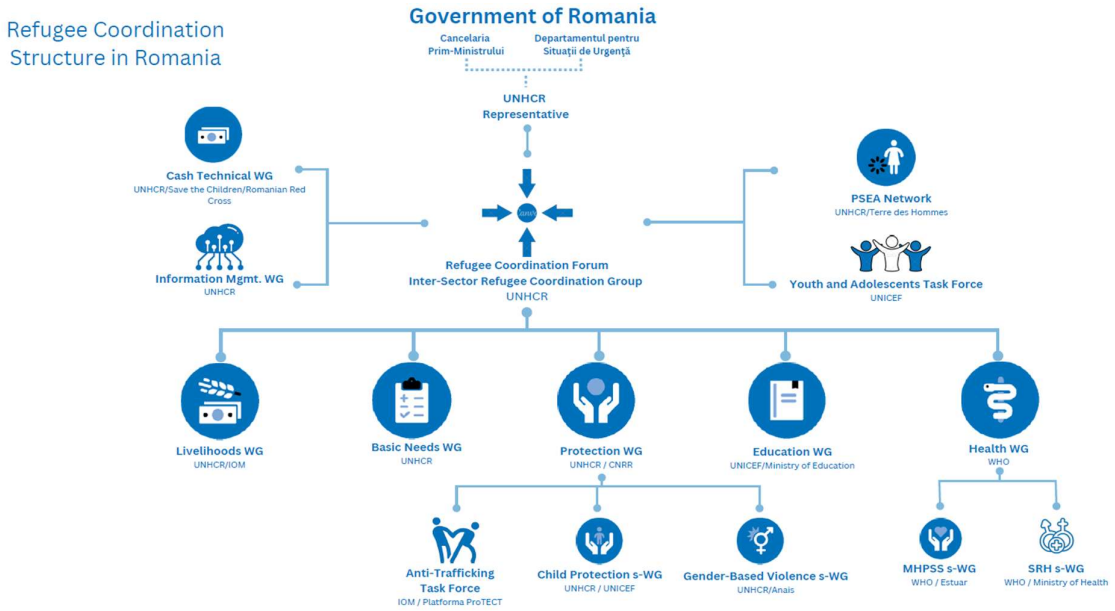
Achievements and Impact

- In 2023, the Youth for Youth Foundation has reached more than 7,000 adolescents, including 620 Ukrainians, through a programme aiming at creating a learning environment for both refugees and the host community. Due to the programme's specificities designed to support the host community's capacity to integrate refugees, around 130 medical staff were trained to work with adolescents in schools.
- Outreach efforts of Junior Achievement impacted 2,300 Ukrainian and 1,800 Romanian adolescents through engaging workshops focused on entrepreneurship and professional orientation in the year-to-date. The initiative involved the training of 440 facilitators, with 176 of them being Ukrainians. Notably, 101 Ukrainians have successfully participated in the "Succeed" component of the program, which provides valuable practical professional experience.
- The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation (The Award) established networks in Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Constanta, Sibiu, Brasov and Suceava, by connecting schools and youth hubs and training 48 mentors for the young people taking part in the programme. More than 140 young Ukrainians have taken part in it so far; the programme is even more popular among Romanian young people.
- In November, 112 Ukrainian young people were actively engaged within the activities of Romanian Angel Appeal's Youth Hub in Bucharest. They participated in skills development workshops such as 3D designing, sewing, dance, cooking, or mountain excursion; a group of young people formed a rock band and rehearsed for musical events at the hub. On a daily basis, the hub welcomes over 20 young people, providing a space for activities, homework, relaxation, play, communication and the collaborative generation of new ideas. During the month, the Romanian Angel Appeal initiated a partnership with The Award. Together with Touched Romania, they organized an outdoor event aimed at promoting the similarities and complementarities between Ukrainian and Romanian cultures. Over 200 community members, the Ukrainian ambassador and representatives from UNICEF, NRC, UNHCR, DGASMB (General Directorate of Social Assistance Bucharest) participated in the event.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- UNICEF initiated a comprehensive mapping project to identify the currently available MHPSS services for Ukrainian young people. This mapping effort includes services offered by organizations such as IOM, PATRIR, National Youth Foundation, Mures Hub, Sensiblu, ASSOC, among others.

Working in partnership



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LINKS

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