



Romania

February 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 5.6 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. During February, the Inter-Agency marked two years of Romania's response to the Ukraine refugee situation and the launching of the RRP 2024, together with the Chancellery of the Prime Minister, the Department for Emergency Situations (DSU).

KEY FIGURES*

6 M

individual refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe.

5.6 M

border crossings from Ukraine and Moldova into Romania

75,236

refugees from Ukraine present in Romania.

154,222

obtained temporary protection in Romania.

72

percent of refugees are women and children.

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

USD 1.1 B

Overall financial requirements

USD 117 M

Romania financial requirements

37

Partners involved 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, more than 6 million people from Ukraine have sought refuge across Europe. As of 29 February 2024, border police recorded more than 5.6 million border crossings from Ukraine and Moldova into Romania. 152,715 Ukrainians and 1,507 Third Country Nationals obtained temporary protection in Romania, which provides access to healthcare, education, and the labour market. The number of refugees from Ukraine present in Romania decreased during the past month from 77,730 (on 31 January) to 75,236 on 29 February.

On 8 February, the Government of Romania adopted a new memorandum to effect retroactive payments related to the assistance programme to refugees from Ukraine adopted in May 2023. The new memorandum establishes the disbursement of funds to all eligible individuals registered in the national assistance programme for refugees from Ukraine, covering the months that were pending payment. This assistance programme was established to replace the so-called “50/20 programme” and covers food and accommodation for refugees. Payment had been pending since June 2023 and protection actors had been advocating on this issue highlighting the impact on the population, particularly the most vulnerable. On 20 February, the first payments of the Romanian government’s assistance programme to Ukrainian refugees started to be disbursed in Baia Mare and Ploiești.



Marking two years of Romania’s response to the Ukraine refugee situation and the launching of the Regional Refugee Response Plan 2024

On 23 February, to mark two years of Romania’s response to the Ukraine refugee situation and the launching of the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) 2024, the Chancellery of the Prime Minister, the Department for Emergency Situations (DSU) and the Inter-Agency Coordination in Romania co-organized an event at the Official Salon of the North Railway Station, Bucharest. Since February 2022, this train station welcomed hundreds of thousands of refugees from Ukraine. Over one hundred participants from authorities, diplomatic community, humanitarian organizations and media attended, with a further 50 participants online. Messages were delivered on behalf of the President of Romania, Mr. Klaus Iohannis and the Prime Minister, Mr. Marcel Ciolacu and by some 20 participants from Romanian authorities, embassies and humanitarian partners expressing solidarity with the refugees and commitment to continuous support. The event was opened and closed with musical performances by musicians from Romania and Ukraine. Through the RRP, 37 partners (24 national NGOs, seven INGOs and six UN Agencies) are seeking US\$ 117 million for their response to refugees from Ukraine in Romania.



Protection

Achievements and Impact

- To support empowerment, protection partners provided information and protection services to refugees from Ukraine. Save the Children provided protection services including legal counselling, support with obtaining documentation, registering with family doctors, and access to various other services to some 10,550 children and adults. The Sensiblu Foundation organized over 45 groups on awareness and support with the participation of some 660 refugees from Ukraine. CNRR carried out three community empowerment events, providing information on the housing and integration program, Romanian citizenship acquisition, school enrolment, and labour rights.
- Promoting social cohesion remains high on the agenda. Autism Voice Romania provided support to over 51 refugees, including 21 Ukrainian children facing mental health and social cohesion challenges. As part of efforts to foster cultural integration, Autism Voice organized holiday-themed crafting activities where both children and parents came together to create spring greeting cards and Mother's Day trinkets. These initiatives developed practical skills and contributed to a deeper understanding of Romanian culture among the refugee community. Save the Children also organized several social cohesion events, including visits to the Constanța Dolphinarium and ice skating in Suceava, attended by 99 adults and 2,059 children.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Refugees from Ukraine face difficulties accessing social protection schemes in Romania. In February, protection actors received information on individual cases which had initially received child allowance and have been approached by local payment agencies to return the money. Local payment agencies refer to the Ministry of Labour and a point of view expressed by the Ministry in May 2022 according to which beneficiaries of temporary protection are not eligible to receive those social benefits. Legal partners have been assisting these cases, and advocacy with authorities on this matter will continue. Meanwhile, partners have also identified a growing number of temporary protection beneficiaries seeking social benefits that they would not currently be able to access.



Child Protection

Achievements and Impact

- Aligning with efforts to strengthen the child protection system, the National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of the Child and Adoption (NAPCRA) registered an additional 750 unaccompanied or separated children since November 2023, bringing the total to 7,649. NAPCRA is now using aggregated data from Primero, the digital case management system, to enhance planning and responses for refugees, including cost analysis for enrolling temporary protection beneficiaries from Ukraine into Romania's social protection system.
- UNICEF's support to the transition from Blue Dot to Blue Grid concept is progressing, with over seven districts finalising county plans integrating preparedness and contingency plans. UNICEF is also

engaging in a rapid documentation exercise essential for understanding the local context, improving services, and advocating for sustainable integration processes with the child protection and other social service systems.

- UNICEF collaborated with UNHCR and supported local and national authorities to ensure protection of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) in line with their best interests, including technical and financial support to 85 children in 5 residential care facilities in Iași and Prahova counties. UNICEF and UNHCR initiated a joint and coordinated approach to mapping the situation of these children to gain a better understanding of their needs to be shared with the government. This will facilitate UNICEF's support to local and national child protection authorities and partners in this regard. UNHCR's and UNICEF's coordinated approach provides evidence to advocate for the sustainable integration of Ukrainian UASC into the national child protection system.
- CNRR established a centralised database to monitor cases of unaccompanied or separated foreign children, documented through counselling sessions in Bucharest or at Reception Centres in Baia Mare, Giurgiu, Galați, Suceava, and Timișoara. In collaboration with UNHCR, CNRR will develop child-friendly information materials for children arriving in reception centres (focusing on non-Ukrainian children). Additionally, collaboration with TdH has led to plans for community empowerment sessions. CNRR provides legal assistance for unaccompanied children regarding family reunification procedures, addressing challenges such as application rejections and embassy appointment issues.
- Between 1 January and 21 February, UNICEF facilitated access for 1,920 children and caregivers, including 25 children with disabilities, to mental health and psychosocial support through its interventions in Brașov, Bucharest, Cluj, Constanța, Iași, Mureș, Vaslui and Sibiu. UNICEF also ensured that 6,759 people had access to safe spaces, protection, and support hubs, including 2,417 children, through its implementing partners.
- In the UTCB/TEI temporary accommodation centre in Bucharest, UNICEF partnered with NGO Four Change to provide accommodation and basic social services to 300 vulnerable Ukrainian refugees. As of February, 84 refugees, including 37 highly vulnerable children, reside in the accommodation centre. While UNHCR has temporarily assumed support for this group, UNICEF will continue to collaborate with key partners and local authorities to find lasting solutions for the remaining individuals.
- Save the Children provided essential services to 3,809 children from Ukraine at integrated hubs and counselling centres in several cities. Additionally, 168 new children and their families received case management services. Save the Children organized an informative session at the Counselling Hub in Suceava, in collaboration with a representative from the Regional Centre for Prevention, Evaluation, and Anti-drug, engaging 14 adolescents to discuss drug prevention strategies. In partnership with the Directorate General for Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC) in Baia Mare, Save the Children conducted registrations and social assessments for vulnerable families and children under the care of the directorate (the Emergency Placement Centre, and the Maternal Centre). This identified a strong need for social and recreational activities, which will be addressed through participation in social cohesion activities. Furthermore, 18 staff members were trained in the Safe Families methodology to promote positive parenting.
- Terre des Hommes (TdH) conducted activities in Baia Mare, Brașov, Bucharest, and Constanța, working with local partners. Services include individual and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) sessions, educational activities, adapted information, referrals, and Individual Protection Assistance (IPA). The Resilience Innovation Facilities (RIFs) in Brașov, Bucharest, and Constanța provide safe spaces for creative exploration, through activities such as 3D printing and vinyl cutting, coupled with MHPSS support. In Brașov, the focus was on after-school programmes, RIF activities, group MHPSS sessions, and IPA. Overall, 442 children received MHPSS sessions and life skills lessons, 101 children participated in RIF activities, and 80 children engaged in afterschool programmes.
- World Vision reached over 1,000 Ukrainian refugee children through services provided at "Happy Bubbles" Socio-Educational Centres in several Romanian cities. These services include weekly activities and monthly sessions aimed at enhancing well-being and addressing child protection issues. Additionally, over 90 parent or caregivers attended MHPSS sessions focusing on stress reduction and

positive parenting. Bi-monthly integration events brought together more than 330 Romanian and Ukrainian children to foster cross-cultural friendships. World Vision Romania launched a Mentorship Program for teenagers, focusing on integration, participation, and children's rights. Following assessments conducted by social workers and psychologists in January, case management activities were initiated in February for 72 children experiencing adaptation difficulties and developmental delays. This support encompasses various domains to address their specific needs effectively.

- UNHCR organized a two-day training session for the newly established enrolment team, focusing on child protection among other key themes. The child protection training covered understanding children's vulnerabilities, recognising signs of abuse, and implementing protective measures. This equipped team members with essential skills to effectively communicate with children and address their protection concerns. Through interactive sessions and case studies, participants gained practical skills to engage sensitively with children, enhancing their ability to ensure the safety and dignity of displaced children.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Efforts need to continue to enhance capacities on providing tailored services to children with specific needs, including children with disabilities, and improve knowledge on case management-related issues.



Gender-Based Violence

Achievements and Impact

- Throughout February, Sensiblu Foundation facilitated over 45 awareness and support groups for some 660 refugees from Ukraine. Additionally, support groups aimed at refugee men began to establish themselves as a regular activity in Bucharest. Despite modest participation, the group fostered deeper discussions about the challenges faced by refugee men. These discussions provide a safe space for men to address cultural pressures, such as the expectation to provide for their families, as well as community scrutiny for fleeing their country instead of working. They also seek guidance on various topics, including employment, intercultural marriages, coping with war trauma, domestic violence, and the role of law enforcement.
- Necuvinte Association hosted a workshop on healthy relationships and gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, with a focus on cyber violence, engaging 21 participants. The session aimed to equip participants with tools to identify and address online violence, fostering a supportive environment to tackle these serious issues within interpersonal dynamics.
- ANAIS in collaboration with UNICEF facilitated an Empowerment through Self-Defence workshop. The workshop was organized in commemoration of the two-year anniversary since the onset of the international armed conflict. The session accommodated a diverse group comprising 20 children, teenagers, and several mothers, aged between 5 and 69. Hosted at the UTCB Campus Refugee Centre in Bucharest, the workshop not only provided practical skills but also fostered a sense of resilience and empowerment among the participants.
- On 29 February, in the context of an integrated protection training for newly recruited staff, UNHCR trained nine staff on PSEA and safe disclosures.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The language barrier poses a significant challenge for adolescent refugees in recognising and reporting illegalities or instances of violence. Insufficient language proficiency may leave these adolescents feeling isolated and hinder their ability to effectively communicate with authorities or support services.



Education

Achievements and Impact

- At the end of February, 39,217 refugee children from Ukraine are recorded as officially enrolled in the Romanian education system¹, including 11,055 who have acquired the full pupil status, and 21,900 children and youths who attend Romanian schools with the transitional status of audients. 5,783 children are also registered in early childhood education and care (ECEC) institutions (at 'ante-preschool' level). In considering [latest UNHCR data](#) on beneficiaries from Temporary Protection in Romania, this suggests that about 80 per cent of all refugee children from Ukraine, and about 91 per cent of the estimated school aged population of refugee children from Ukraine in Romania, are now enrolled in the Romanian education and ECEC system. Yet, only about 30 per cent of school aged refugee children from Ukraine are fully enrolled as pupils in Romanian schools and enjoying the same benefits as their Romanian peers, despite the reform introduced by the Government in April 2023, making it mandatory for refugee children from Ukraine 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.
- 73 education hubs providing alternative or complementary learning opportunities have been officially registered with the Ministry of Education. These provide learning support including remedial learning or learning continuity following the Ukrainian curriculum - to an additional 9,741 children as of February 2024. While no official data is available on the effective participation of Ukrainian children registered with Romanian schools, information gathered from several county school inspectorates suggests that up to one third of all refugee children from Ukraine registered as audients attend Romanian schools on a regular basis since the new school year started in September 2023, with a significant proportion attending school only from time to time while also participating in education hubs, online learning, and language courses, at least until they can master sufficient Romanian language skills to engage meaningfully in Romanian schools.
- Support is provided to ensure that all Ukrainian refugee children 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 Romanian language training. RRP partners continue to facilitate access primarily to classroom-type education modalities that encourage face-to-face learning and personal interactions, as well as Romanian language courses, MHPSS and activities fostering local integration, and only provide access to online learning in a complementary or alternative manner when necessary. Most RRP partners offering alternative or complementary learning support through education hubs also increasingly require, and facilitate in most instances, the registration of Ukrainian refugee children with the Romanian education system and their participation in Romanian language classes, preparing them for progressive integration into the national education system.

¹ Source: administrative data, Ministry of Education, as at 23 February 2024

- Coordination in the education sector remains critical, both at national and decentralised levels, to extend the provision of educational services and ensure that refugee children can progressively transition to the Romanian education system. UNICEF and JRS co-chair the Education Working Group in partnership with other UN sister agencies (IOM, UNHCR, and the World Bank), the Government of Romania (including the Ministry of Education in particular), as well as NGOs and other development partners supporting the delivery of educational services.
- During February, efforts continued to focus on local and national coordination, on facilitating increased access to Romanian language courses, identifying options for Ukrainian children having difficulties enrolling and participating fully in local Romanian schools, and facilitating access to alternative or complementary learning modalities when necessary. Technical support and advocacy efforts geared towards national authorities were also extended by RRP partners, including on 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 exploring support mechanisms to facilitate the integration of Ukrainian refugee teachers in the Romanian education system. UNICEF and the Ministry of Education participated in the [Regional Conference in Prague, Czech Republic \(14-15 February 2024\) on "Inclusive Education and Continuous Learning for All Children: Inclusion of Ukrainian Refugee Children in Education in Europe"](#), and formulated joint recommendations which will be considered moving forward, reflecting on experiences and lessons learned from other host countries.
- UNICEF engaged with several county school inspectorates and local NGOs to ensure continuity of education support services, including through partnership agreements to help prolong the operations of education hubs throughout the current academic year, and to advocate for the organization of additional Romanian language courses under the leadership of county school inspectorates in order to meet local demand. Through dedicated support extended to the Bucharest Municipal Schools Inspectorate (ISMB), an additional 147 Ukrainian refugee children were registered with Romanian schools in Bucharest alone during February. UNICEF's partnership agreement with JRS Romania was also extended in order to help prolong the delivery of education services, mainly through education hubs in Braşov, Constanţa, Bucharest, Galaţi, and Mediaş until the end of the current academic year, and shall benefit an estimated 1,500 refugee children.
- TdH conducted educational activities in Baia Mare (in partnership with City Makers), Bucharest, Braşov, and Constanţa (in partnership with the Civic Resource Centre), consisting of afterschool classes, intercultural and life skills learning activities, as well as digital skills building (STEM) complemented by mental health and psychosocial support delivered through Resilience Innovation Facilities. A set of auxiliary manuals and workbooks were developed and published to support Romanian language skills acquisition targeting Ukrainian children and teenagers specifically. These bilingual learning support materials can be accessed [here](#).
- World Vision has been supporting about 1,400 refugee children, both directly and in collaboration with local partners, including through preschool and after-school programmes run in 8 "Happy Bubbles" socio-educational centres in 6 locations (Bucharest, Cluj, Constanţa Iaşi, and Suceava). The after-school program also provides access to online classes for children still enrolled in formal Ukrainian education, homework assistance, and remedial classes. Social educators help children who require assistance with their homework and support with online classes. Pre-school activities focused on Early Childhood Development (ECD) programming with the aim of ensuring that children acquire basic concepts, skills, and attitudes required for successful learning and development. The after-school program provides access to online classes for children still enrolled in formal Ukrainian education, homework assistance, and remedial classes. Additionally, the program includes life skills workshops such as arts and crafts, reading clubs, mathematics club, computer literacy, and English club. The socio-educators also conducted Storytelling Workshops to guide children in creating their own unique stories. At all centres, beneficiaries receive daily meals and are equipped with educational kits to ensure they have all the necessary resources to keep up with their academic progress. Four hours of Romanian language lessons are provided at all locations each week to ensure educational support for overcoming the language barrier and facilitate integration into the host community and local schools. Child Protection and MHPSS services continued to be offered promoting integration and the well-being of those affected by the crisis. In

collaboration with the Finnish school in Bucharest, support was extended to deliver formal education (preschool, primary, secondary) benefiting 60 refugee children in collaboration with Christian Bucharest Association Centre (ACCB) as local partner. In Constanța, integrational remedial activities for Ukrainian children and host communities were also implemented in collaboration with JRS NGO, through a mentorship and educational support program targeting Ukrainian children attending Romanian formal education in priority. The project teams are implementing integrational remedial activities at three schools benefiting 300 children (150 Ukrainian refugee children and 150 Romanian children) who receive Romanian language and mathematics support to address specific learning needs and enhance their integration into the local educational environment. In February, 54 children from UTCB Transit Centre for Refugees in Bucharest participated also in non-formal education workshops, including through play and art.

- In Sibiu, NGO Sus Inima operates the Sus Inima Programmes for Refugee Integration (SIPRI) Education Hub, with technical and financial support from UNICEF, as a bridging programme to support the progressive integration of Ukrainian refugee children in Romanian public schools, providing additional language support. The program covers remedial education, homework assistance, and extracurricular activities, promoting holistic child development. In February, 113 children and adolescents engaged in Romanian language courses and education support activities, and 938 in play-based learning activities (including 37 Romanian children). In February, an assessment was administered to assess children's proficiency levels in Romanian language in different skills (reading, writing, oral communication, and listening comprehension) after five months of Romanian language courses offered through the hub, with results suggesting that more than 60 per cent have acquired at least sufficient proficiency levels in reading, oral communication and listening with comprehension, and 45 per cent for written communication. The results will help organize the programme and schedules to improve Romanian language acquisition until the end of June, and thereby children's preparation for transitioning to local schools.
- JRS Romania organized the closure event of the Safe and Inclusive Education for Refugee Children and Adolescents in Romania (SIERCAR) project on 8 February. With financial support received from Plan International, the two-years project ensured learning activities in 27 Educational Hubs, including at 12 in public and 1 private schools) in Brăila, Bucharest, Constanța and Galați, benefiting more than 3,000 children. Its implementation was based mainly on cooperation with local school inspectorates, developing a transitional way for Ukrainian children to integrate in Romanian schools, including by organizing regular and intensive Romanian language classes or by creating a pool of Ukrainian social educators teaching in Educational Hubs (180 Ukrainian teachers) and willing to be included in the national education system. In February, JRS assisted more than 1,600 children in 15 Educational Hubs opened in Bucharest, Constanța, Galați, Brașov and Mediaș, including eight in public schools, with support provided by 90 Ukrainian teachers. Romanian language classes were provided at all hubs. Considering the importance of education sector, JRS also initiated a media campaign on explaining the relevance and impact of registration in schools and continuing formal education and organised group and individual discussions with parents.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- While funding has now been secured to sustain the operations of most education hubs until the end of the current academic year, including to support progressive integration in Romanian schools and delivery of Romanian language courses, there are increasing concerns on the actual capacity of the Romanian education system to fully absorb and meet the educational needs of thousands of children who are enrolled with a transitional status of audient, or those who still largely rely on education hubs, or online learning. RRP partners are facing serious difficulties to secure funding for continuing their operations beyond the current school year, hence the risk of having to discontinue such services from September 2024 onwards, unless additional resources can be mobilised in the next few months or if such services can be progressively transferred and sustained through national and/or local public authorities.

- While increasing numbers of Ukrainian refugee children are now enrolling in Romanian schools, be it with the transitional status of audient, many continue their studies with the Ukrainian education system, including through online and home-schooling arrangements, or at education hubs, at least until they can acquire sufficient communication skills in Romanian language. Significant language barriers remain, with still too few opportunities to access Romanian language courses and adequate learning support materials through county school inspectorates, which hinder children's effective participation in local schools.
- There is still a shortage of places in creches and kindergartens in big cities as well as in rural areas, where there are fewer kindergartens and no education hubs. This also affects parents looking for jobs because they cannot leave their children unattended.
- 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 to support the effective integration of Ukrainian refugee children in Romanian schools. Such arrangements could also help school communities improve social cohesion.
- Diverse experiences are reported suggesting heterogeneous capacities in Romanian teachers, calling for additional efforts on teacher training, support, and supervision to ensure the effective integration of Ukrainian refugee children in general, and of those enrolling as audients in particular.
- More clarity in the procedures for certification and mutual recognition of studies is still expected. The mutual recognition of studies between Romania and Ukraine has been subject to a bilateral agreement which was signed in 2023. The ratification law was adopted by the Parliament and should be promulgated by the Presidency in the coming weeks.



Health and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- Significant information gaps remain for refugees seeking healthcare services, hindering their ability to navigate the health system and access care. In February, WHO cultural mediators provided health access informational to 89 Ukrainians, offering personalised advice and guidance on how to receive essential care. A further 20 beneficiaries were assisted in scheduling doctor's appointments, and 17 patients were accompanied to medical consultations.
- Access to primary care is a priority for Ukrainian refugees. WHO Romania offers financial and administrative support to selected family medicine clinics in Bucharest, Braşov, Suceava, and Galaţi, encouraging their participation in the refugee healthcare program. During this reporting period, WHO-supported family doctors delivered 170 consultations to Ukrainian refugees.
- The Independent Midwife Association Ukrainian (AMI) call centre received 1,760 health-related inquiries from Ukrainian refugees in Romania. The organization also enrolled 226 Ukrainian refugees with family doctor clinics in Bucharest, facilitated access to primary healthcare for 260 beneficiaries, and specialized care for 190 beneficiaries, and provided medical interpretation for over 400 consultations.
- In January and February, WHO county coordinators collaborated with local authorities to map over 100 refugee-inclusive family doctors and other service providers across Constanţa, Sibiu, Cluj, Galaţi, Iaşi, and Suceava. These have been included on the [Services Advisor](#) platform which helps refugees find useful services.
- In Braşov and Sibiu, WHO county coordinators launched awareness campaigns for measles and influenza with the aim to promote vaccination uptake and increase immunisation coverage among the Ukrainian community, which is currently below WHO recommended rates. WHO cultural mediators

additionally distributed key messages and information related to measles vaccination across key Ukrainian social channels, with over 18,200 views recorded.

- AMI distributed information materials on measles vaccination to family doctors and Public Health Directorates in each county and held two online classes on measles vaccination for 400 parents.
- Given the high proportion of women in the Ukrainian refugee population, easy access to sexual and reproductive healthcare is paramount. The WHO midwife, operating across Galați and Constanța, conducted midwifery consultations for Ukrainian women and facilitated referrals to specialised care for 18 Ukrainian women.
- AMI held two classes on sexual and reproductive health and rights for 30 refugee women, organized three courses on prenatal and postnatal education, and conducted five home visits for postpartum consultation, breastfeeding support, and newborn care.
- WHO conducted a three-day workshop on "Doing What Matters in Times of Stress," attended by 66 doctors and nurses from the "Marius Nasta" Institute of Pneumophthisiology. The workshop addressed the significant work burden faced by healthcare workers since the COVID-19 pandemic and the increased demand for services resulting from the Ukraine emergency.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is a recognised need for enhanced community awareness on sexual and reproductive health, especially among vulnerable populations. Efforts to bridge this awareness gap and the implementation of targeted education initiatives are crucial.
- The efficiency of vaccination campaigns can be significantly enhanced through specialised training for health mediators, particularly those from specific communities like the Roma communities. Further planning and resources are essential to address gaps.
- The offboarding of Ukrainian patients from doctor's lists has led to a surge in demand for primary healthcare services, particularly among vulnerable individuals who do not speak English. Action is needed to ensure these individuals can access necessary medical care if and when required.
- Language translation services are identified as an area requiring immediate attention, with constraints projected to worsen by the end of March. As aid focuses on the most vulnerable, efforts to address language barriers are critical to ensure equitable access to services.
- There is an urgent need for comprehensive care and social support for disabled patients, along with unhindered access to cost-free or refunded treatments, contingent on availability. This highlights the importance of ensuring equitable access to healthcare services for all, including those with disabilities.



Basic Needs

Achievements and Impact

- In February, Save the Children Romania demonstrated continued dedication to supporting refugees from Ukraine. Across eight locations including Bucharest, Constanța, Galați, Iași, Maramureș, Satu Mare, Suceava, and Timiș, and the organization distributed 7,480 essential non-food items (NFI), including hygiene and sanitary kits, as well as baby, school, and recreational kits. Additionally, Save the Children provided essential financial support by distributing 729 social vouchers worth RON 600 (US\$130) per family member, aimed at covering basic needs.
- UNHCR in collaboration with local authorities, community leaders and its partners delivered 7,043 core-relief items (CRIs) including hygiene kits, bed linen, blankets, cooking utensils, pillows, sleeping bags, and towels. Distributions targeted some 2,717 refugees from Ukraine in Bacău, Brăila, Buzău, Constanța

Iași, Sighisoara, and Tulcea, including asylum-seekers and subsidiary protection holders residing in the Galați General Inspectorate for Immigration (GII) Reception Centre.

- Since 15 January, UNHCR enrolled over 2,400 individuals for winter cash assistance and assisted over 1,280 persons during the last week of February. The cash assistance for over 500 persons is under the process. Furthermore, UNHCR, in coordination with authorities and partners, is updating the vulnerability scorecard that will be applied to determine eligibility for the ‘cash for persons with specific needs’ programme in 2024, and other NGO-run programmes. Over the month, enrolments for cash assistance were also conducted in field locations, including Baia Mare, Cluj-Napoca, Constanța, Iași, Târgu Mureș, and Tulcea reaching more than 200 vulnerable refugees from Ukraine.
- During the reporting period Save the Children Romania responded to the urgent needs of vulnerable individuals by providing essential financial support through the distribution of vouchers, aimed at covering basic needs. Save the Children Romania, assisted a total of 308 persons from approximately 101 families. The assistance supported families to mitigate financial hardships and enhance the quality of life for those facing economic challenges within the community.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- On 9 February, UNHCR received official clearance from GII for a group of 33 Eritrean refugees currently in the Emergency Transit Mechanism in Niger, to be transferred to the Emergency Transit Centre (ETC) in Timișoara in view of resettlement to the Netherlands. Given new requests for the use of the ETC in Timișoara, UNHCR is re-prioritising activities to meet new needs, including basic needs.
- On 28 February 2024, UNHCR organized a Focus Group Discussion with seven Ukrainian refugees at the premises of the local NGO La Răscruce in Iași. Participants opined that the most effective approach to support them would be to replace material aid with cash or equivalent vouchers.



Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion

Achievements and Impact

- On 6 February, an “Employment Agency Guide” developed by UNHCR together with 10 representatives from the Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion Working Group and with the support of the Government Agency for Employment (ANOFM) was [published on ANOFM’s website](#). The guide provides job seekers with an overview of the employment assistance services offered by ANOFM, as well as the processes and requirements for accessing them. It is available in English, Romanian, Ukrainian, Russian, and Arabic.
- Jobs for Ukraine continues to enhance refugees’ linkages to the Romanian labour market through their [online platform](#) and offline activities. This month, 607 job seekers and 10 employers signed-up to the platform, with 61 jobs posted and 45 job “matches” being facilitated. Through the platform, they also offer [free training resources](#) and online career counselling.
- Save the Children in collaboration with Jobs4Ukraine is actively supporting 128 vulnerable individuals from Ukraine and Romania in their pursuit of employment opportunities, offering childcare services to parents or caretakers who need this support to work. As of February 2024, 13 individuals have successfully earned employment through the project and 17 individuals are in the processes of securing a job.
- On 28 February, UNHCR and Jobs for Ukraine organized an awareness session at the KATYA Centre in Brașov for 23 refugees from Ukraine together with the Metropolitan Agency for Sustainable Development (AMDDDB). The aim was to hear about the group’s experience with seeking employment in

Romania and to provide an orientation of relevant resources available to them, including the [Jobs4Ukraine platform](#), [Employment Agency Guide](#), and [Services Advisor Tool](#).

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- On 1 February, within the Livelihood Working Group, the Centre for Comparative Migration Studies (CSCM) presented the livelihood outcomes from the Area-Based Assessment conducted in Braşov, Cluj, and Galaţi in the last quarter of 2023. The assessment revealed higher self-reported employment levels in Braşov and Cluj (30 per cent) compared to Galaţi (15 per cent). Key reported barriers to employment include language barriers, limited childcare services, and challenges related to the recognition of qualifications. The full reports are available on the UNHCR data portal for [Braşov](#), [Cluj](#), and [Galaţi](#).

Cross-Cutting Priorities



Youth and Adolescents

Achievements and Impact

- During February, a [U-Report Europe poll](#), with Youth and Adolescent Task Force coordination on the content, assessed the needs of young Ukrainian people. According to the poll of 130 Ukrainians, most have been in the country since 2022, while almost half feel "more or less" integrated. 30 per cent found recreational and social activities the most helpful since they left Ukraine, while 20 per cent want to continue such activities, even if more than 20 per cent want support to access the job market. When asked what is missing in their areas, 21 per cent said "professions on specific topics", and 20 per cent - "assistance to integrate in local schools". Finally, the stakeholders that Ukrainian young people trust most in representing their needs are NGO workers (18 per cent), teachers (17 per cent) and Romanian peers/youth (17 per cent).



Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

- In February, WHO cultural mediators in Bucharest, Constanţa, and Cluj facilitated 11 group counselling sessions for 55 Ukrainian refugees and conducted 100 individual counselling sessions for those in need of more personalized support. Eleven art and music therapy sessions were additionally organized for 58 participating Ukrainian refugees. Such activities have proven highly effective in addressing stress and anxiety among Ukrainian refugees and promoting community cohesion.
- Save the Children Romania continues to deliver MHPSS activities to Ukrainian refugees through counselling centres and transit points across Bucharest, Galaţi, Tulcea, Iaşi, Suceava, Constanţa, Baia Mare, and Timişoara. In February, the organization provided psychological counselling to 87 children and 172 adults, while a further 1,803 children and 473 adults participated in psychosocial activities such as art therapy workshops, chess clubs, dance classes, and cooking workshops. 18 social workers and MHPSS facilitators were trained in the Safe Families methodology to enhance family communication and problem-solving, and to foster a better understanding of child development among adults.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- WHO county coordinators identified a pressing need for improved mental health support, particularly among refugee populations. Despite continuous and ongoing efforts, there is still a significant gap in mental health services, indicating the necessity for targeted interventions and additional resources.



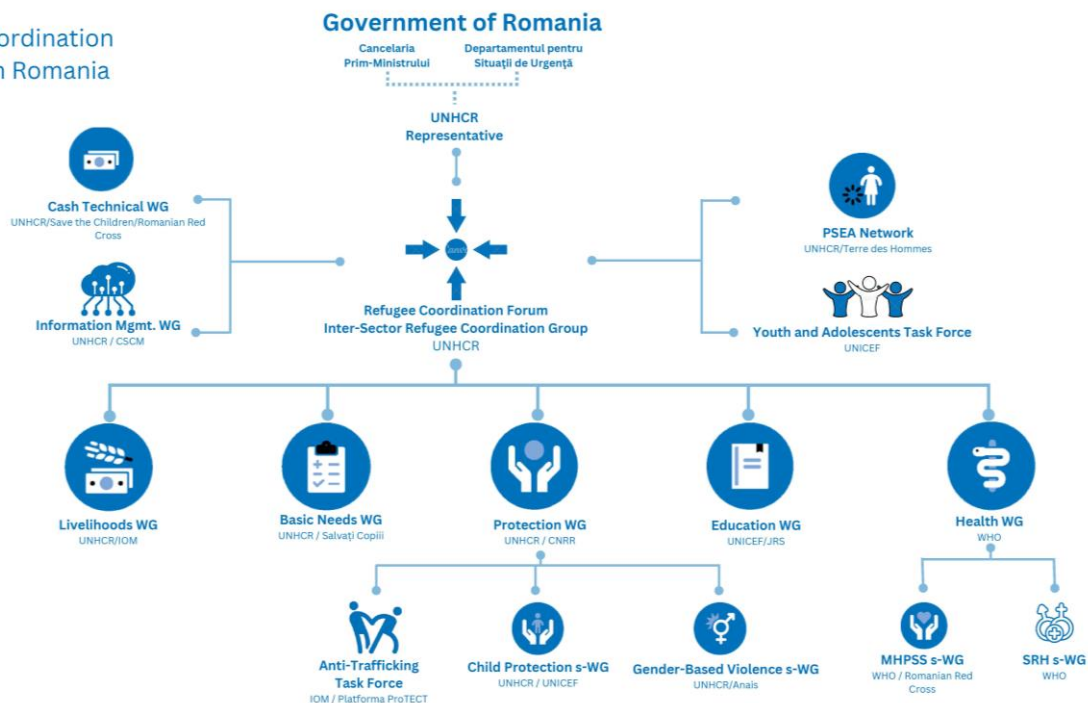
Trafficking in Persons

Achievements and Impact

- The Romanian government has been consulting with stakeholders to develop its Anti-Trafficking strategy due to be released in March. This strategy recognises the risks to all migrants, including refugees and expressly refers to the Ukrainian Context.
- IOM Romania continued to provide counselling and inclusion activities to Ukrainians in Romania, all of which aim to continue to reduce vulnerabilities against protection-related issues, including trafficking in human beings.
- In January and February, eLiberare raised awareness about safety measures for 3,325 women through online info-sessions, as part of the KOMPASS intervention.
- A video material was also disseminated among Ukrainians with information about how to make a CV and how to find safe jobs in Romania, with emphasis on the rights of employees in Romania. The video was shared across all social media platforms and reached a total of 7,772 people.
- Steps have been made for National Anti-Trafficking task forces (including Romania) to convene at regional level in March.

Working in partnership

Refugee Coordination Structure in Romania



CONTACTS

Sebastiaan Der Kinderen, Senior Inter-Agency Coordination Officer, Romania

kinderen@unhcr.org, Cell +40 725 566 165

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

weatherl@unhcr.org, Cell +40 720 222 624

LINKS

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