WHO Romania Monthly Newsletter

March 2024 Highlights

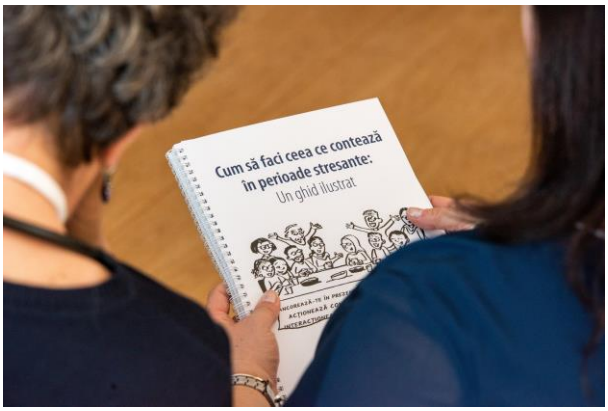
- WHO Romania conducted 3 one-day workshops on stress management for nurses and doctors from public hospitals in Timisoara.
- WHO Romania convened strategic partners to review the draft Country Cooperation Strategy prior to its signing in April 2024.
- WHO conducted a bridging workshop with key national partners in Romania to strengthen prevention and response capacity for zoonotic diseases.
- WHO handed over essential emergency equipment to DSU to capacitate national emergency preparedness.

Emergency Response

Stress Management Workshops in Timisoara

WHO Romania conducted 3 one-day workshops on ''Doing What Matters in Times of Stress'', attended by 75 nurses and doctors from three public hospitals in Timisoara.

The workshops sought to mitigate the impact of the significant work burden experienced by medical staff due to COVID-19 and the Ukrainian refugee crisis. The curriculum was tailored to address and provide effective coping mechanisms for stress and burnout. The courses also featured interactive sessions and exercises with professional actors to help participants re-enact challenging communications with patients.



Primary Healthcare Access for Ukrainians

Family doctors are the entry point to the health system in Romania. The services they provide include vaccinations, treatment of chronic and communicable diseases, referrals to secondary care, as well as mental health support and family planning. These are all key health needs for Ukrainians in Romania.

To facilitate Ukrainian access to family medicine clinics, WHO has supported family medicine cabinets in Bucharest, Brasov, and Suceava to be more refugee-inclusive. Following the success of this project in 2023, WHO Romania has expanded this program to Cluj, Constanta and Galati.

Emergency Equipment for DSU

With the support of German funding, WHO Romania procured essential medical equipment for the Department of Emergency Situations (DSU), including patient monitors and ventilators for emergency transport and portable incubators. This will enhance emergency services preparedness and responsiveness and benefit both the refugee and host population throughout Romania.

WHO Visits Asylum Centres

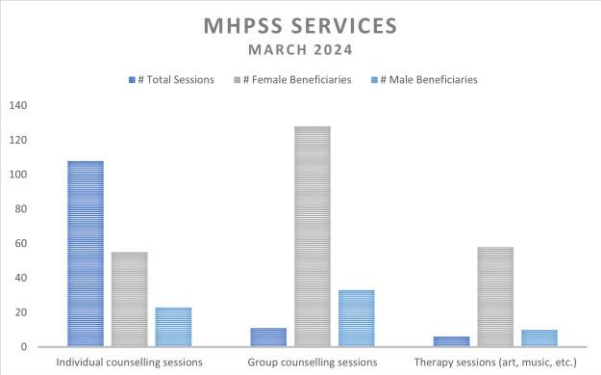
The WHO Romania team conducted visits to six regional refugee centres in Romania to assess gaps, challenges and areas where WHO can provide support. The visits were highly insightful, with WHO colleagues impressed with the dedication and empathy of Romanian colleagues.

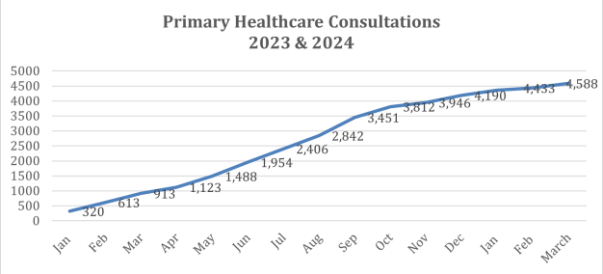
Following the visits, WHO Romania plan to further strengthen the capacity of these facilities to serve the refugee population by:

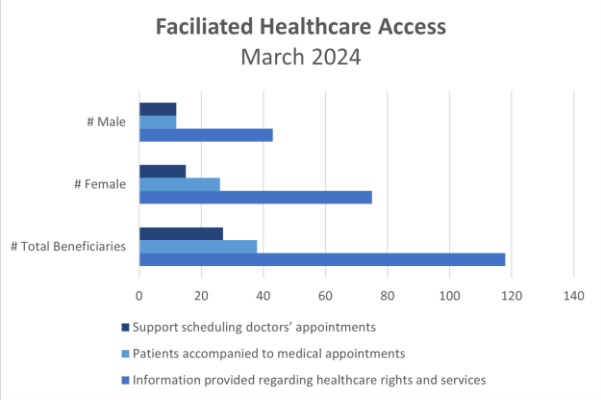
- **Providing medical equipment and devices** as requested.
- **Conducting staff trainings** on MHPSS, PRSEAH and infectious disease treatment.

WHO ROM Monthly Data Insights

- WHO cultural mediators delivered 108 individual and 11 group psychosocial counselling sessions and organised 6 art, music and cultural therapy sessions for Ukrainians.
- WHO cultural mediators also supported 183 Ukrainians with accessing national healthcare services.
- WHO-supported family doctors in Bucharest, Suceava, and Brasov delivered 155 consultations to Ukrainians and WHO midwives in Galati facilitated referrals to specialist care for 18 beneficiaries.







National Recovery & Resilience Plan (NRRP)

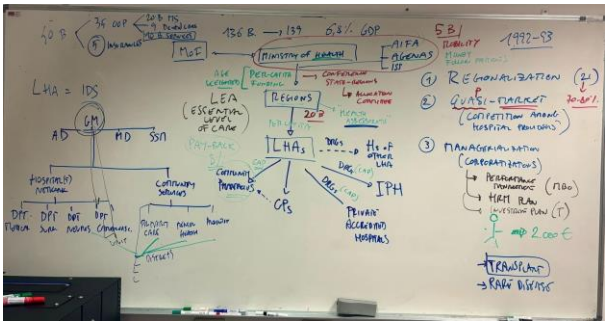
Visit by CPS Delegation

The Division of Country Health Policies and Systems (CPS) team, led by Director Dr Natasha Azzopardi-Muscat and the WHO Romania Representative Dr Caroline Clarinval, met with Secretary of State Dr Rogobete and discussed impact and sustainability planning for the four NRRP project pillars.

Health Service Management

The Visiting Scholar programme concluded with two final groups of 10 participants from NIHSM, Universities of Medicine in Romania, MoH and hospital managers.

WHO Romania continues to work closely with the National Institute for Health Services Management and the consortium of universities on the delivery of the new curricula for health services management.



Quality of Care

WHO Representative Dr Caroline Clarinval and WHO technical experts participated in a meeting organised by the National Authority for Quality Management in Health Care and the World Bank to discuss to discuss Quality of Care and Patient Safety in Romania. The meeting was also attended by Health Minister Prof Rafila.

- Hospitals that participated in the Pilot Study on QoC, together with the WHO Romania and WHO Athens teams, met to gather feedback on a draft guidebook for the implementation and roll out of quality indicators.
- The WHO Athens Quality of Care and Patient Safety Office also focused on developing an online training programme to support the implementation of the NRRP reforms.

Country Office Events & Communications

TB and Air Quality

On World Tuberculosis Day, WHO Romania and the Marius Nasta National Institute of Pneumology and TB announced a joint initiative to raise awareness on the link between tuberculosis and air quality by launching a competition with National University of Arts students. The winner will paint their design as a mural on one of the TB Institute buildings.

Over 4,000 people submitted their online votes in March, with the winner set to be announced in April.

Country Cooperation Strategy

WHO Romania convened key partners to review the draft Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS), a strategic framework for collaboration between WHO and national partners over the next seven years.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Health, Prof Rafila and Secretary of State Prof Pistol, as well as key stakeholders from government, DSU, universities and international organisations.

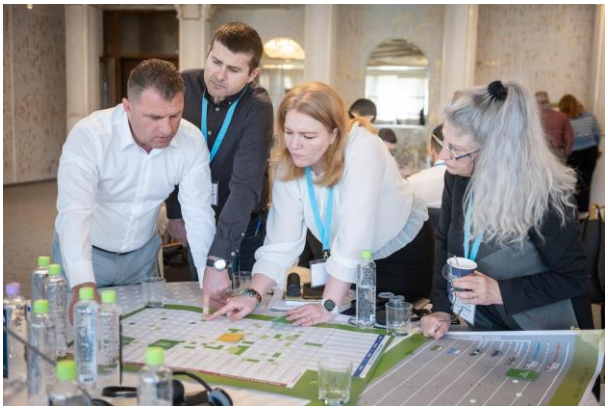
The finalised document will be signed by WHO Regional Director, Dr. Kluge, and Minister of Health, Prof Rafila, in April.

Workshop on Zoonotic Diseases

WHO Romania organised a 'National Bridging Workshop', to discuss prevention and response capacity for zoonotic diseases.

The workshop was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of National Defence, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Ministry of Environment.

Over three days, experts from the animal, human, and environmental health sectors engaged in an assessment of existing protective mechanisms for the prevention, detection, and response to zoonotic diseases and related human-animal-environment interface health events.



Further Country Office Activities

- WHO attended the fourth Women's Health -Gender Medicine Conference, centred upon women's health, gender disparities and the need for equitable healthcare access. During the event, WHO Representative Dr Clarinval highlighted violence against women as a public health issue.
- WHO Romania joined the "Together for Health and Natality" campaign, addressing access to sexual health services. Supported by the Ministry of Family and Senate, it will be launched across multiple counties in Romania over the next year.
- WHO Romania participated in the event "Women's Health Beyond 45: Exploring Menopause as a Public Health Concern" and presented guidelines and perspectives related to menopause.
- WHO Representative, Dr. Clarinval and WHO Health Operations Manager, Dr. Gatscher were honoured to participate in the "Remarkable Women's Contributions" event on the occasion of International Women's Day organised by the Department of Public Health and the Department of Education and Research within the Presidential Administration and Ministerul Afacerilor Externe/ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Romania[1].

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[1]https://www.facebook.com/mae.romania?__cft__[0]=AZXvyFc_WcKZlqhQeUp0DVfBGBouPxtaC-qITMHPvrTDpBxVjJ-zKlE4veVBwerRy9HCfjsnEE_scZ7z1ysHhvPOzwJvEydQf4iBwuRbZzC8KL7JJKk56RFdu0LqNoCRYVjXwmlzXNNn-XfFvBx78vzSHksvyZqtcOuuBXYA5q4UyLy2mp1ryQLobqo6p3ePEYI&__tn__=-]K-R

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