



Romania

April 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 5.9 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.

KEY FIGURES*

5.98 M

individual refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe.

5.97 M

border crossings from Ukraine and Moldova into Romania

159,958

obtained temporary protection in Romania.

71

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, nearly 6 million people from Ukraine have sought refuge across Europe. As of 21 April 2024, border police recorded some 5.97 million border crossings from Ukraine and Moldova into Romania. 158,381 Ukrainians and 1,557 Third Country Nationals obtained temporary protection in Romania, which provides access to healthcare, education, and the labour market. Following Romania's accession to the Schengen area through air or seaports, the number of refugees present in the country can no longer be calculated due to the freedom of movements within the Schengen area. UNHCR is exploring alternative ways to estimate the number of refugees in the country.

On 8 April, International Roma Day, the Inter-Agency Coordination platform launched the Romani language version of [Services Advisor platform](#) facilitating improved accessibility to the Roma community promoting a more inclusive refugee response in Romania under the RRP.

Building upon the lessons learnt from the Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment 2023, Inter-Agency sector leads and the Information Management Working Group held a dedicated working session on 15 April to finalise the technical questionnaire for the Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS) 2024 with the aim of accurately capturing the needs of refugees from Ukraine in Romania. The SEIS surveys will be administered in May and June with a final report published by October 2024.

On 16 April, UNHCR convened the Suceava Refugee Inclusion Working Group with representatives from NGOs and local authorities in attendance. The meeting focused on accommodation, including access to emergency shelter. The local Department for Emergency Situations provided a briefing on transit accommodation sites set up in Rădăuți and Siret. The General Inspectorate for Immigration (GII) provided an overview of the accommodation provided at the Rădăuți Regional Reception Centre for asylum-seekers and beneficiaries of international protection. The discussion highlighted the need for strengthened referral mechanisms as the imminent end of the governmental support programme in June may exacerbate challenges for refugees from Ukraine to find rented accommodation.

The Inter-Agency Coordination team finalised its analysis of the funding received during the first three months of 2024 by the 37 partners implementing the [Refugee Response Plan \(RRP\) 2024](#). RRP partners reported that they have received USD 14.4 million against the appeal of USD 117 million – covering only 12 per cent of total needs. 24 of the 37 RRP partners reported that they have not received any new funding against the appeal and they are

RRP partner RomaJust – “Equal rights to refugees” project.

RRP partner RomaJust through its "Equal rights for refugees" project works together with local authorities and NGOs that provide services to increase Roma refugees' access to available services. Activities implemented include training of paralegals and other stakeholders working with refugees; monitoring of border crossing points; monitoring refugee collective centres; provision of legal advice regarding human rights; protection of rights and support in accessing services; obtaining identity documents in accordance with EU standards; and an information campaign for the information and empowerment of refugees.



Yana, a mother of three children from Odesa in Ukraine currently lives in Bucharest. Her children's passports were expiring which meant that they could not travel and that the children could not enrol in school and faced various other difficulties. Through the "Equal rights for refugees" project, RomaJust was able to help Yana resolve the situation. RomaJust's "Equal rights for refugees" project will train and inform 120 civil servants and representatives of institutions and civil society so that their work with refugees is more effective. 160 Ukrainian Roma refugees will benefit from legal advice in obtaining rights and accessing services, and 200 Roma and non-Roma refugees, will benefit from an information campaign and information and empowerment workshops.

operating on carry-over funding from 2023 which is rapidly running out. Ten RRP partners are close to discontinuing their refugee programs in the coming weeks due to resource constraints. The under-funded sectors of the RRP include response to gender-based violence, livelihoods and economic inclusion, and education.



Protection

Achievements and Impact

- In April, the Chancellery of the Prime-Minister's Office initiated consultations with civil society regarding the assistance for Temporary Protection holders and refugees from Ukraine, post-June 2024, when the current legislation pertaining to the current governmental programme for refugee from Ukraine will end. The discussion began with the existing draft law initiated by the Ministry of Internal Affairs proposing to modify the format of the residence permit for Temporary Protection holders by adding their address. Additionally, government representatives mentioned the government's intentions to modify the financial assistance mechanism for accommodation and food, which will be effective from 1 July. This revision is expected to lead to a differentiation between refugees who arrived before a specific date and new arrivals.
- During April, Protection partners (CNRR) assisted over 600 forcibly displaced and stateless persons with protection services, including legal counselling and referrals, dedicated livelihoods and social inclusion interventions, information provision and awareness raising.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Since Romania joined the Schengen zone at its EU sea and air borders, partners observed stricter approaches being applied at land border crossings with partners identifying more third-country nationals being denied access to the territory. This has also affected Ukrainian nationals and third-country nationals with permanent residence in Ukraine when they present multiple previous entries or declare coming to Romania for purposes such as shopping.
- In line with information published in the media with reference to the General Inspectorate of the Border Police, the first four months of April have seen an increase in irregular border crossings. A total of 11,000 Ukrainian citizens have crossed the borders irregularly since the start of the armed conflict in Ukraine. The increase is likely to be related to the changes in conscription legislation in Ukraine. People often cross in dangerous conditions putting their health and lives at risk. According to information published in the media, 19 Ukrainians have so far been found dead on Romanian territory.
- A recent opinion poll conducted by INSCOP Research outlined that Romanians have a relatively positive attitude towards refugees and migrants. Still, the poll outlined also that 21 per cent of respondents considered refugees from Ukraine as a threat ([read more](#)). It is however a considerable reduction when compared with another [poll](#) conducted in February 2024 by the European Parliament that indicated that 35 per cent of Romanians considered refugees from Ukraine as a threat.



Child Protection

Achievements and Impact

- 92 representatives of local authorities including the General Directorate for Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC), the Directorate for Social Assistance (DAS), the Police, and GII from Bucharest, Baia

Mare, and Tulcea attended a training course on child protection in emergencies, safeguarding and psychological first aid.

- UNICEF in partnership with Bucharest City Hall and the General Directorate of Social Assistance of the Municipality of Bucharest (DGASMB) inaugurated the Respiro “Magic Rainbow” centre for disabled children and their families. The centre will provide free of charge services such as care, supervision, temporary accommodation, counselling, socialisation, play and rehabilitation, medical assistance, information, assessment, meals for children with disabilities.
- UNHCR organized a workshop in Timișoara, bringing together officials from the Prefecture, County, and Municipal Hospital, as well as child protection authorities, local NGOs, and a Ukrainian refugee-led initiative. The session focused on safeguarding forcibly displaced children, covering topics like International Standards, UNHCR's Best Interest Procedure, and promoting child participation. The event fostered collaboration among participants, who agreed to regular meetings for sharing practices and addressing challenges to better support displaced children.
- A Ukrainian delegation consisting of representatives from the Ukrainian Parliament, the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, the Ministry of Social Policy, the National Social Service, and representatives of regional authorities from Dnepropetrovsk and Odesa, conducted a visit in Romania to assess the situation of children evacuated from Ukrainian residential institutions. The mission found conditions satisfactory and noted the positive support of national and local child protection authorities.
- With the support of World Vision, more than 1,100 Ukrainian refugee children were reached by the services provided by the “Happy Bubbles” Socio-Educational Centres in Bucharest, Cluj, Constanța, Iași, Râmnicu Vâlcea, and Suceava. The Child Protection and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) programmes aim to help improve children’s sense of security, well-being and engagement while stimulating all developmental pillars. More than 100 parents and caregivers attended MHPSS group sessions to reduce parental stress, promote positive coping mechanisms, enhance wellbeing, and strengthen parent-child relationships. Furthermore, some 96 children were supported with case management activities.
- World Vision held two integration events fostering cross-cultural friendships and promoting social-educational inclusion in collaboration with local communities, schools, and NGOs, bringing together more than 500 Romanian and Ukrainian children in Bucharest, Cluj, Constanța, Iași, Râmnicu Vâlcea, and Suceava.
- With the support of Save the Children, 1,577 children and 2,418 adults from Ukraine received social evaluation and counselling, referral assistance at the integrated hubs and counselling centres in Bucharest, Baia Mare, Galați, Iași, Suceava, Timișoara, and Tulcea. 196 children and their families benefited from case management services and 91 new cases were opened. 97 children and 68 parents participated in the Safe Families programme, with an average of four sessions for children and parents, and one mixed session. Two information sessions on “Children’s rights in bullying situations” and “Children's rights in war situations” were held at School No. 5 in Galați.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Ukrainian refugee children have limited access to medical care and specialised psychological care.



Gender-Based Violence

Achievements and Impact

- In April, NGO ANAIS, in partnership with HIAS and UNICEF, continued its support to Ukrainian refugees by offering tailored social services. The Joy Day Festival on 6 April provided a platform for Ukrainian women in Bucharest to showcase their businesses and talents, promoting community integration and recognition. The organization expanded its support to include individual psychological counselling for refugees. 178 refugee

women and teenagers, and 50 children attended recreational workshops engaging, aimed at enhancing their well-being. These efforts underscore a holistic approach to supporting Ukrainian refugees, including mental health care, community engagement, and social cohesion opportunities.

- Sensiblu Foundation hosted 58 support groups with over 800 participants. Individual counselling sessions were provided to 20 people. The predominant themes were mental health, particularly concerning the impact of the ongoing war in Ukraine, with discussions on depression, anxiety, and suicide. Specific issues included post-partum depression and managing stress. Challenges such as long-distance relationships and supporting relatives in Ukraine were evident. Campaigns on gender-based violence prevention were conducted, such as the "Safety is everyone's right" campaign in Constanța, along with activities fostering inclusion and well-being, including cultural exchanges. Despite difficulties, participants expressed gratitude for safety and community support in Romania. Thematic discussions also explored spirituality and cultural traditions, promoting solidarity and resilience among participants.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Further psychological counselling support for the Ukrainian refugee community is needed, especially since community members, especially women and adolescents, continue highlighting the need for continuous dialogue on maintaining healthy relationships during times of stress related to the war and the fear of limited access to services in the future.



Education

Achievements and Impact

- Overall, 43,381 refugee children from Ukraine are now recorded as officially enrolled in the Romanian education system¹, including 13,377 who have acquired full pupil status, and 23,622 children registered with a transitional status as audients. 5,904 children are also registered in early childhood education and care institutions. The [latest UNHCR data](#) on beneficiaries of temporary protection in Romania suggests that about 88 per cent of all Ukrainian refugee children, and about 69 per cent of the estimated school aged population of Ukrainian refugee children in Romania, are now enrolled with the Romanian education and early childhood education system (79 per cent for primary school aged children and 64 per cent for secondary school aged children respectively). However, only around 36 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 them to enrol in Romanian schools or in non-formal education services available locally, to qualify for social benefits under the temporary protection scheme. 73 education hubs are officially registered with the Ministry of Education providing alternative or complementary learning opportunities, including remedial learning support, and learning continuity following the Ukrainian curriculum to an additional 9,504 children. While no official data is currently available on the effective participation of refugee children from Ukraine registered with Romanian schools, information gathered from several county school inspectorates suggests that only up to one third of all children registered as audients attend Romanian schools on a regular

¹ Source: administrative data, Ministry of Education, as of 19 April 2024

basis since the start of the school year in September 2023, with a significant proportion attending school only from time to time and participating in education hubs, online learning and language courses in parallel, at least until they can develop adequate Romanian language skills to engage meaningfully in Romanian schools.

- Support continues to be provided to ensure that all refugee children from Ukraine 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 in Romanian schools, online learning, special classes and after-school activities offering learning support ('education hubs'), and facilitating increasingly access to Romanian language training to support the integration and transition of children to the national education system. RRP partners continue to facilitate access primarily to classroom-type education 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) as last resort. Most RRP partners offering alternative or complementary learning support through education hubs do also require increasingly, and facilitate in most instances, registration of children with the Romanian education system and their participation in Romanian language classes, preparing them for progressive integration in the national education system. Many education hubs have also adjusted their operations as complementary afterschool activities to allow children to attend Romanian schools in the morning.
- 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. JRS and UNICEF have continued to assume the coordination of the Education Working Group in partnership with other UN sister agencies (IOM, UNHCR, and the World Bank), the Government of Romania (particularly the Ministry of Education), as well as NGOs and other development partners supporting the delivery of educational services.
- In April, efforts continued to focus on local and national coordination, on facilitating increased access to Romanian language courses, identifying options for 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 extended by RRP partners in support of the registration and transition of Ukrainian refugee children to Romanian schools in time for the next academic year (including acceleration and certification of Romanian language courses delivered by local NGOs).
- UNICEF continued to engage with several county school inspectorates and local NGOs ensuring continuity of education support services, including through partnership agreements to help prolong the operations of education hubs at least until the end of the current academic year in June, and to advocate for the organization of additional Romanian language courses under the leadership of county school inspectorates in order to meet growing demand. Through dedicated support extended to the Bucharest Municipal School Inspectorate/Education Desk at the Romexpo refugee support hub, an additional 634 enrolment requests were processed for Bucharest in April alone (representing a 500 per cent increase compared to early 2024). UNICEF's partnership agreements with JRS Romania, FITT, PATRIR, Step-by-Step, CREIS, and Sus Inima continued to be implemented in April to help deliver complementary and alternative education services in cities hosting large refugee communities, including through hubs, benefiting several thousands of Ukrainian refugee children with continuing support towards progressive integration in Romanian schools and stronger focus on Romanian language courses. During the reporting period, 30,000 individual learning materials, including textbooks and exercise books to support the acquisition of Romanian language skills, were printed and distributed to county school inspectorates and implementing partners benefiting 10,000 Ukrainian refugee children. Furthermore, UNICEF also supported 27 play and learning groups accommodating children of preschool age, including in collaboration with NGO Step-by-Step.
- World Vision supported some 1,500 refugee children, both directly and in collaboration with local partners, including through preschool and after-school programs run at eight socio-educational "Happy Bubbles" centres in six locations (Bucharest, Cluj, Constanța, Iași, and Suceava). Pre-school activities focused on early childhood development programming aimed at ensuring that children acquire the 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. In 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 per week at all locations to ensure support to overcome the language barrier and facilitate integration into the host community and local schools. Psychological support and child protection activities continued to be offered promoting integration and the well-being of those affected by the war. Support benefiting 60 refugee children provided formal education (preschool, primary, secondary) was delivered in collaboration with the Finnish school in Bucharest together with the Christian Bucharest Association Centre (ACCB) as local partner.

- In Sibiu, Sus Inima continued to operate the 'SIPRI Edu.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 with additional language support for Ukrainian children. The program covers remedial education, homework assistance, and extracurricular activities, promoting holistic child development. In April, 103 children and adolescents engaged in Romanian language courses and education support activities, and 1,056 in play-based learning activities.
- In April, JRS, with financial support from UNICEF, helped more than 1,600 children in 14 educational hubs in Bucharest, Braşov, Constanţa, Galaţi, and Mediaş engaging 90 Ukrainian refugee teachers. Stronger support was extended to provide additional Romanian language classes to children and adults through 10 dedicated language teachers. Six psychologists provided support in mediating school-related issues among children, parents, and teachers in Bucharest, Braşov and Constanţa. In Constanţa, with the support of World Vision, JRS provided remedial integration activities for both refugee and host communities through a mentorship and educational support program for Ukrainian children attending Romanian schools. The activities supported 300 children (150 Ukrainian refugee children and 150 Romanian children) in three schools; they received support with Romanian language and mathematics, as well as with integration in local schools. Two Ukrainian education hubs in Constanţa joined the Earth Day celebration. In addition, all educators from the Ukrainian education hubs supported by JRS have initiated a series of informative sessions with parents aimed to provide information and guidance regarding enrolment procedures, opportunities, and prospects for the next school year. Under the renowned Duke of Edinburgh's International Award scheme, leaders and participants had the opportunity to connect during a one-day meeting with young people aged 14 to 24, sharing experiences, emotions, and engaging in discussions. Through a UNESCO project, Ukrainian and Romanian children learnt about Easter traditions in a colourful celebration of culture and creativity. The project aims to preserve intangible cultural heritage protected by UNESCO, with children learning about and cooking traditional dishes from different parts of Ukraine.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- While funding has now been secured to sustain the operations of most education hubs until the end of the end of June, including to support progressive integration in Romanian schools and delivery of Romanian language courses, there are increasing concerns regarding the capacity of the Romanian education system to fully absorb and meet the educational needs of thousands of children who are enrolled with the transitional status of audient and those who rely on education hubs and online learning means. RRP partners are facing serious difficulties securing funding for their operations beyond the current school year leading to risks of having to discontinue the provision of such services from September unless additional resources can be mobilised in the next few months or if such services can be progressively transferred and sustained through national or local authorities.
- While increasing numbers of Ukrainian refugee children are enrolling in Romanian schools with the transitional status of audient, many continue to follow the Ukrainian curriculum in parallel, 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, hindering children's effective integration and participation in local schools.
- Several issues and questions regarding procedures for enrolling for the next school year remain to be addressed both at national and local levels. Parents and caregivers will need to receive adequate and timely information to consider the best options for their children.

- Several communities and schools continue to express the need to assign school or 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 and their social cohesion in the community. To this end, greater involvement of Ukrainian refugee educators in the educational process is considered crucial, however, it requires further financial assistance, increased communication, and joint trainings with Romanian teachers.
- There is still a shortage of places in creches and kindergartens in big cities as well as in rural areas, where there are less kindergartens and no education hubs. This also affects parents who are looking for jobs because they cannot leave their children unattended.
- Diverse experiences are reported suggesting varied capacities of Romanian teachers suggesting a need for improved teacher training, support, and supervision to ensure the effective integration of Ukrainian refugee children in general, and of those enrolling as audients in particular.
- Benchmark tools and assessments are still needed to assess learning progress and track learning outcomes of Ukrainian refugee children who have integrated Romanian schools.



Health and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- Language barriers represent the single biggest barrier to healthcare access for Ukrainians living in Romania, limiting their ability to explain health issues to Romanian providers, request necessary care or provide consent for medical procedures. Language barriers have frequently been cited as the main reason for medical providers not treating refugees. To address this issue, WHO Romania launched a UKR-ROM translation hotline on 15 April; a unique initiative among refugee-receiving countries. The hotline has already enjoyed significant interest and uptake, with 52 translation appointments conducted in April with a total consultation time of 367 minutes.
- Significant information gaps remain for refugees seeking healthcare services, reducing their ability to navigate the health system and access care. These information gaps range from confusion regarding health entitlements, to limited understanding of how to enter the national health system. To address this issue, in April WHO cultural mediators provided information on healthcare rights and services to 142 Ukrainian refugees, accompanied 76 refugees to medical appointments and directly scheduled 89 specialist appointments.
- Access to primary care remains a priority for Ukrainian refugees. To facilitate primary care access for Ukrainian refugees, WHO Romania provides financial and administrative support to selected family medicine clinics in Bucharest, Braşov, Constanţa, Galaţi and Suceava incentivising their engagement in the refugee healthcare program. During the reporting period, WHO supported family doctors delivered 241 consultations to Ukrainian refugees.
- Low vaccination coverage remains a key issue within the Ukrainian community and has increased the community's vulnerability to measles infections. To address this issue, WHO delivered training to 35 humanitarian workers in Braşov on how to engage with vulnerable communities, build public trust in vaccinations and combat misinformation and disinformation related to immunisation.
- UNICEF, in partnership with the Independent Midwives Association (AMI), has continued its capacity-building initiatives throughout April, through development and distribution of informative material on a range of topics including perinatal care, immunisation, interpersonal communication, and GBV to health care professionals in areas of Romania with sizeable Ukrainian populations, including Bucharest, Botoşani, Braşov, Craiova, and Oradea. AMI also continues to oversee a call-centre that helps Ukrainian refugees to access and register in the national health system and to further integrate into Romanian society.
- UNICEF continues to support the delivery of primary health care services in public health facilities and through implementing partners. So far in 2024, 1,328 children and women were reached with primary health care services, 94 children immunised, and over 673 children and caregivers received infant and young child feeding

counselling and information through UNICEF supported mechanisms in Bucharest and Ilfov county. Over 14,000 parents and child guardians were reached with health information and health promotional services.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Geographic inequities persist, with humanitarian workers facing significant challenges reaching people in geographically isolated areas.
- Despite interventions to increase vaccination demand, vaccine hesitancy and trust issues persist within the community. Larger and more wider reaching interventions will be needed to address this challenge.



Basic Needs

Achievements and Impact

- On 25 April, UNHCR and Basic Needs partners held a meeting with the Prime Minister's Chancellery and the Department for Emergency Situations to discuss plans for the 15 collective accommodation centres in Romania. Several assistance programmes funded by the government, UNHCR and NGOs are scheduled to end by 30 June, which may lead to uncertainty for 450 refugees from Ukraine. Collective accommodation sites operated by public authorities are in Bucharest, Arad, Galați, and Vâlcea hosting a total of around 450 refugees. Moreover, there are around 100 sites (hotels, leisure homes, and apartments) run by private entities country-wide (mostly in Constanța and Vâlcea, hosting some 4,900 refugees. In the coming weeks, Romanian authorities together with UNHCR and partners will identify possible resources and tailored activities to support the most vulnerable refugees hosted in collective accommodation beyond June 2024.
- Basic needs partners are working closely to coordinate the efforts to meet the immediate needs of refugees in transit or remaining in Romania.
- During the reporting period, the Four Change Association carried out a series of initiatives aimed at supporting Ukrainian refugees. An essential part of these efforts was facilitating communication between the beneficiaries of the UTCB Transit Centre for Refugees and representatives of the DGASPC. Through a program implemented in collaboration with other entities in the social sector, free medical services including medical consultations, analyses, and radiological investigations tailored to individual needs are provided to adults in need.
- In April, Save the Children continued to support refugees from Ukraine distributing 2,667 essential core relief items (CRIs), such as hygiene and sanitary kits, baby, school, and recreational kits at eight locations including Bucharest, Botoșani, Galați, Iași, Maramureș, Suceava, Timiș, and Tulcea the organization. Additionally, Save the Children provided essential financial support by distributing 173 social vouchers worth RON 600 (USD 129) and RON 200 (USD 43) per family member, aimed at covering basic needs.
- UNHCR provided the last payments for the Cash for Winter programme to 559 forcibly displaced people that were found eligible based on vulnerability assessments. A total of 2,759 persons were assisted since the start of this programme. During April, UNHCR began enrolment of refugees from Ukraine for its cash assistance for refugees with specific needs programme which aims to provide 6,000 vulnerable displaced people with four instalments of RON 630 (USD 135) of multi-purpose cash assistance per person. Eligible families are determined based on assessments using the Inter-Agency vulnerability scorecard. Between 8 to 12 April, UNHCR supported 74 Ukrainian refugees from 31 households through the new cash assistance program. On 11 and 12 April, UNHCR held a mobile registration mission enrolling 58 Ukrainian refugees from 19 families based in Iași for the same program.
- During the first week of April, UNHCR conducted needs assessments in Bacău, Brăila, Buzau, Constanța, and Tulcea for CRI to meet the basic needs of the most vulnerable refugees. UNHCR distributed some 799 hygiene kits and hygiene parcels, cooking utensils, pillows, blankets, and body towels to 393 refugees in Bacău, Buzău,

Galați, and Tulcea with the support of municipal social services as well as NGO Inimă de Copil and community-led NGO Help Ukrainians. In Constanța, UNHCR, Novapolis, and World Vision distributed CRIs including 34 sleeping bags, 71 quilts, 144 items of underwear, and 177 towels to some 250 refugees. During the reporting period, UNHCR also distributed more than 1,000 CRIs including blankets, hygiene kits, women and children's clothes, and thermoses to 658 refugees from Ukraine in Baia Mare, Botoșani, Cluj, Piatra Neamț, Suceava, and in close cooperation with its partners PATRIR, City Makers, Sensiblu, "Fundatia Judeteana pentru Tineret Botoșani" and the Department for Social Assistance. Between 13-17 April, UNHCR delivered CRIs to DGASPC in Iași for use at a space for Ukrainian and Romanian children. On 23 April, at the request of DGASMB, UNHCR delivered 3,440 hygiene kits at Romexpo social shop. The social shop run by the General Direction for Social Assistance of the Municipality of Bucharest at Romexpo, continues to be the largest humanitarian assistance delivery point in the entire country and serves all categories of refugees displaced from Ukraine.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Although Ukrainian refugees receive constant support from actors in the social field, their needs are complex and continually present new challenges. Currently, the key issues faced by beneficiaries is accommodation in collective centers, like the UTCB and Edmond Nicolau Centres, related to legislative changes in May 2024. Their outlook is uncertain, as it is unknown if and which centres will remain open in the future. The lack of financial resources and legislative uncertainties restrict the provision of high-quality social services.



Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion

Achievements and Impact

- Project Voyager has continued to support refugees access to the Romanian labour market through their online platform (www.jobs4ukr.com) and offline activities. In April, 541 refugees and 14 new employers were onboarded onto the job platform and 38 "matches" were facilitated between candidates and companies such as Concentrix, Genpact, H&M, and others. The team also provided employment counselling sessions for 85 individuals and organized four speaking clubs for refugees wanting to practice their Romanian and English language skills, with a total of 36 participants.
- World Vision has continued the roll-out of their livelihoods project aiming to enhance the self-reliance and employability of refugees and vulnerable host-community members through a holistic set of services such as job counselling, interview preparation, enrolment into language courses, entrepreneurship support, and linkages to employers. As of April, they have enrolled 687 individuals into the project across six locations (Bucharest, Brașov Cluj, Constanța, Iași, and Suceava).
- The NGO SNK has continued its efforts to support the social and economic integration of Ukrainian refugees in Romania. In April, they provided Romanian language training for a group of 24 individuals. This was the 27th group enrolled for the 18-hour intensive language courses which they provide. SNK also hosted three conversation clubs for Ukrainian refugees wanting to practice their Romanian speaking skills.
- UNHCR, jointly with its partners World Vision and Jobs for Ukraine, started the roll-out of Romanian language courses carried out by International House for refugees who are working or seeking employment, aimed at enhancing their employability. In April, a total of 561 individuals were enrolled.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The Romania 2023 Multi Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA), published on the UNHCR Data Portal, indicates that 33 per cent of the respondents in the survey were engaged in paid employment, 27 per cent were unemployed/seeking work, and 33 per cent were outside the labour force. The most common sectors of employment were service-related fields (32 per cent), hospitality (12 per cent), education (8 per cent), trade and

repair (8 per cent), transport and storage (6 per cent), transport and storage (6 per cent), information and communication (6 per cent) and construction (5 per cent). The main reported needs for a better socio-economic inclusion included language training (17 per cent), support for accessing social assistance (17 per cent), job matching (11 per cent), skills recognition (8 per cent), childcare (7 per cent), access to financial services (6 per cent) and upskilling (6 per cent).

Cross-Cutting Priorities



Youth and Adolescents

Achievements and Impact

- The National Strategy for Youth was adopted by the Romanian Government for 2024-2027. The document highlights important information on national priorities in terms of youth, outlining several action points, plans and directions to be enacted and funded by public institutions in the foreseeable future. Aligned with the 11 objectives of the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027, the National Youth Strategy for 2024-2027 tackles a variety of issues such as education, health, social exclusion, employment, entrepreneurship, and environmental protection, among others that impact young people's quality of life. This harmonization between the national and European strategic documents enables Romanian youth to access external funding opportunities, thereby fostering the development of the youth sector, as stated in the project's rationale.
- Discussions included a significant open call for youth centres and youth work, launched by the Ministry of European Funds, with a budget of 166 million euros. Eligible entities include employment agencies partnering with NGOs and public authorities, with project budgets ranging from 200,000 to 2,000,000 euros, focusing on youth work, non-formal education, and volunteering. Concerns were raised about the financing mechanism for NGOs, specifically the adequacy of advance payments. Securing a portion of the budget for projects targeting young refugees was also proposed. An information session with the Ministry of European Funds was suggested.



Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

Achievements and Impact

- Psychological support remains a key health need for Ukrainian refugees in Romania. During April 2024, WHO cultural mediators delivered 87 individual counselling sessions and 4 group counselling across Bucharest, Constanța, Târgu Mureș, Cluj and Brașov. WHO cultural mediators also organized 18 art and music therapy sessions, which have proved highly effective in addressing stress and anxiety among the Ukrainian community.
- Other RRP partners provide MHPSS support: see section on education.



Trafficking in Persons

Achievements and Impact

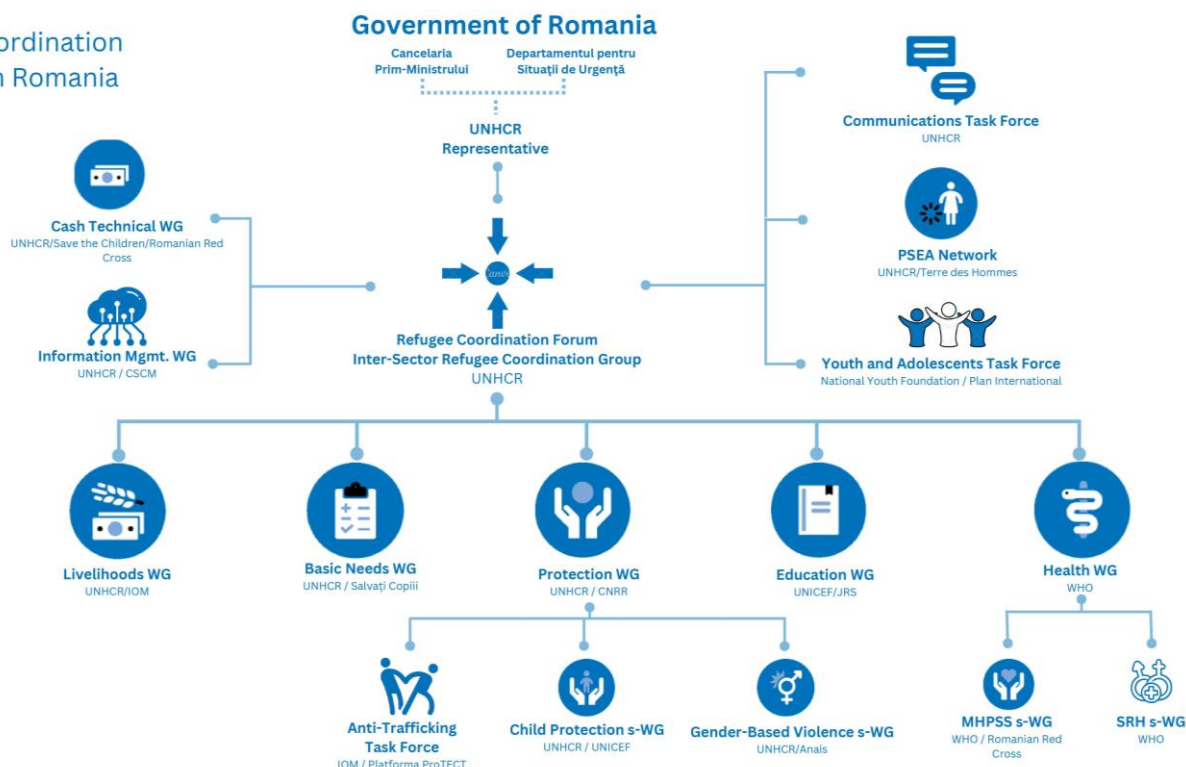
- In April, the Crisis Response Anti Trafficking Task Force (CRATTF) conducted a mapping exercise to re-evaluate priorities and focuses of the task force. This also included various identified needs and trafficking risks to inform future actions.
- NGO eLiberare held prevention information sessions online, shared informative videos and met with those they assist in inclusion, making appropriate service referrals. eLiberare also undertook capacity building with several educational hubs. With a focus on labour rights and prevention of labour abuses and exploitation, materials for employers hiring Ukrainians and third country nationals were developed with an upcoming plan to disseminate such materials to companies.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The needs and gaps that members identify and share during the April 2024 mapping will be disseminated in the May 2024 update and task force meeting.

Working in partnership

Refugee Coordination Structure in Romania



In 2024, the Inter-Agency platform comprises of the following 37 appealing partners implementing humanitarian activities in Romania for refugees from Ukraine:

ActionAid International | Action Contre la Faim | Asociația Moașelor Independente | CNRR | CORE | eLiberare | FONSS | Four Change | Good Neighbours Japan | Habitat for Humanity | HEKS/EPER | HIAS | IOM | Jesuit Refugee Service | Migrant Integration Centre Brașov | National Youth Foundation | Necuvinte | Novapolis | ParentIS | Project Voyager | PATRIR | Plan International | Roma Just | Romanian Angel Appeal | Save the Children | SECS | Sensiblu Foundation | Sera | Sus Inima | Terre des Hommes | Tineri pentru Tineri | UNESCO | UNFPA | UNICEF | UNHCR | WHO | World Vision

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LINKS

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