WHO Romania Newsletter Q4-2025

Summary

Highlights for Q4-2025

- WHO Romania's annual Strategic Partner Meeting on 27 October brought together representatives from national institutions, diplomatic missions and NGOs to review 2025 achievements and align priorities for the year ahead.
- WHO Romania donated 18,500 GeneXpert cartridges and two bronchoscopes to the Marius Nasta Institute of Pneumophysiology, ensuring continuous TB diagnostic capacity across 44 testing locations.
- The British Embassy in Bucharest and WHO Romania joined the Romanian Society of Microbiology, the Romanian Society of Epidemiology and the National Institute of Public Health at the National Conference on Microbiology and Epidemiology on 8 November in Timisoara to address Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).
- Within the framework of the DG Sante EU4Health Immunization project, the National Institute for Public Health (INSP), in partnership with the Foundation Center for Health Policies & Services and WHO Romania, initiated training sessions on effective communication regarding childhood and MMR vaccination. Over 200 primary healthcare

providers in Brasov and Timisoara were trained to address parental concerns about immunization.

BCA & Emergency Activities

Donation to Marius Nasta Institute of Pneumophysiology

With TB diagnostic services under pressure due to increased demand from both host and refugee populations, WHO Romania was able to procure 18,500 GeneXpert cartridges and two bronchoscopes for the Marius Nasta Institute, thanks to the generous support from the Government of Japan via the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF). The donation will ensure continuous national testing capacity for the next six months across 44 locations and enhance the Institute's ability to perform advanced respiratory procedures.

Effective Communication on Childhood Immunization

The National Institute of Public Health, in collaboration with the Foundation Center for Health Polices & Services and WHO Romania, launched a training on technical aspects and communication for childhood immunization based on the results and recommendations of a study on barriers to childhood vaccination (https://iris.who.int/items/63b2d864-d5bf-4c84-b38d-c8e1e66c1782).

Over 200 primary healthcare providers from Brașov and Timișoara have already participated in sessions on how to address vaccine hesitancy and communicate empathetically with parents. In the context of increasing measles cases, further trainings are scheduled for 2026 with the aim to build stronger local capacities, improve trust at community level and increase childhood immunization uptake.

Wastewater Surveillance

H.E. Ambassador Takashi Katae and colleagues from the Japanese Embassy accompanied WHO Romania on a technical visit to the National Institute of Public Health laboratory to observe firsthand the implementation of the wastewater surveillance project supported by ASEF. The visit highlighted enhanced testing methods and procedures for poliovirus and antimicrobial resistance, along with preparations to establish a new testing hub in Iași to serve the counties bordering Ukraine. The initiative represents a significant step toward enhancing Romania's environmental surveillance capacities and strengthening public health security.

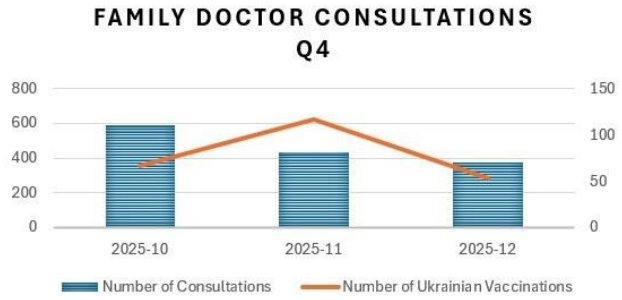
Services for Ukrainian Refugees Q4-2025

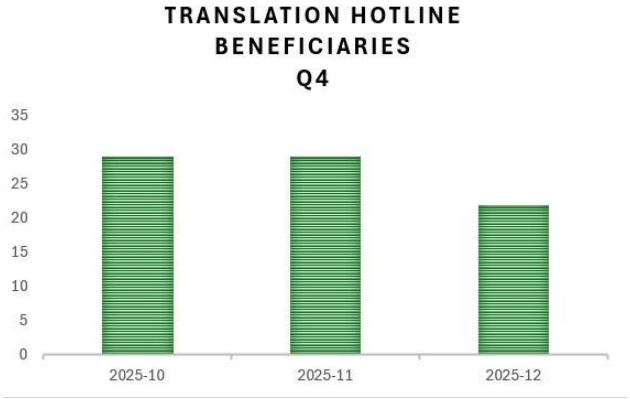
In Q4-2025

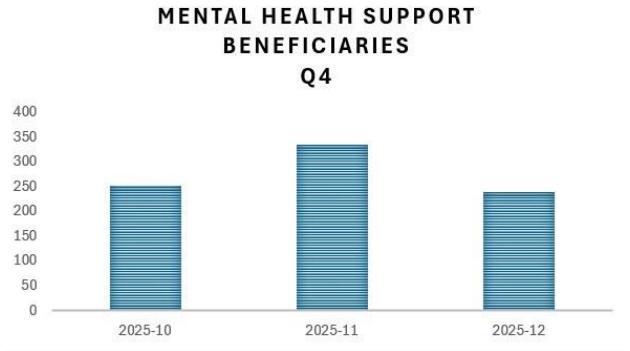
- 1,618 Ukrainian refugees benefitted from essential health services provided by WHO supported family doctors in Brasov (2), Bucharest (2), Cluj (1), Constanta (1), Galati (1), Sibiu (1) and Suceava (1).

- the UKR-ROM telephone translation hotline, offering interpretation services for primary and specialist healthcare as well as psychological and psychiatric consultations, delivered simultaneous translations for 221 pre-scheduled and 4 emergency appointments.

- WHO cultural mediators in Bucharest and Constanta provided health access information and support to 2,596 Ukrainians, along with individual and group psychosocial support sessions for 883 Ukrainian beneficiaries.







National Recovery & Resilience Plan (NRRP)

Quality of Care & Patient Safety

In October, a second medical team from the Emergency University Hospital Bucharest traveled to Hôpital Saint-Louis in Paris to study best practices for enhancing infection prevention and control (IPC) in endoscopy. This visit is part of a NRRP-supported knowledge exchange program and an ongoing collaboration aimed at strengthening IPC capacity in Romania through knowledge transfer.

In November 2025, the National Authority for Quality Management in Health (ANMCS), with support from the WHO Office on Quality of Care and Patient Safety in Athens and WHO Romania, convened key national stakeholders for a consultation on the draft National Strategy

for Quality of Care and Patient Safety, demonstrating the Ministry of Health's commitment towards strengthening healthcare quality and safety across the country.

Data & Digital Health

Between October and December 2025, WHO/Europe and WHO Romania successfully concluded the nationwide digital health training program, including both online and face-to-face sessions across 6 regions. 491 healthcare professionals participated in courses designed to strengthen digital competencies, covering key topics such as Electronic Health Records (EHR), telemedicine, digital identity & security and the European Health Data Space, thereby supporting the Ministry of Health's digital transformation efforts under the NRRP.

Human Resources for Health

WHO/Europe is offering technical support to the Romanian Ministry of Health in the development of a National Palliative Care Strategy. WHO experts have contributed to two technical working group meetings, sharing international expertise to ensure the national strategy aligns with global standards and best practices. This initiative seeks to enhance access to high-quality palliative care services that are integrated into universal health coverage and tailored to meet the needs of patients and their families.

Health Services Management

WHO/Europe and WHO Romania have supported the Ministry of Health with technical assistance for a national training initiative targeting 5,000 healthcare professionals. Implemented through the National Institute for Health Service Management (NIHSM) with trainers from the NIHSM and the Universities of Medicine and Pharmacy (UMFs), the program focused on Health Management, Ethics & Integrity and Human Resources. Ultimately, 9,000 professionals successfully completed the training.

WHO is collaborating closely with the Ministry of Health to support the development of a national plan that aims to make prevention and screening accessible, patient-centered, effective, and sustainable by prioritizing primary healthcare as the foundation of a modern health system focused on improving health for all.

Communications

The Ministry of Health, supported by WHO/Europe, launched a national communications campaign between 15 December 2025 and 14 January 2026 highlighting the impact of European funding alongside NRRP reforms and investments in the healthcare sector. Its goal is to rebuild trust in the Romanian health system through a unified, clear message: "Trust makes us better."

Country Office Events & Communications

Strategic Partner Meeting

On 27 October, WHO Romania held its annual strategic partner meeting at the Palace of UMF Carol Davila, gathering representatives from national institutions, diplomats, civil society and NGOs to review shared accomplishments and align future priorities. The event offered a platform to acknowledge successful partnerships promoting universal health care access, emergency preparedness, refugee support and NRRP implementation. Through open dialogue and collaboration, the meeting strengthened a collective commitment to developing a more resilient, inclusive and equitable health system for all people in Romania.

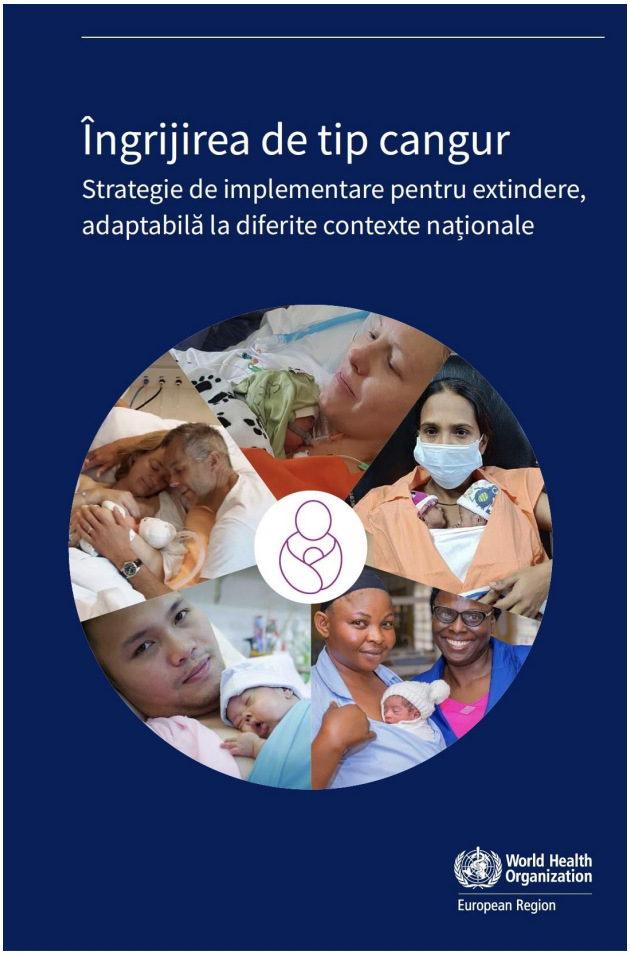
AMR Roundtable

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is among the most significant health threats today, making infections more difficult to treat, causing loss of life and straining health systems globally. On 8 November, the British Embassy in Bucharest and WHO Romania collaborated with the Romanian Society of Microbiology, the Romanian Society of Epidemiology and the National Institute of Public Health at the National Conference on Microbiology and Epidemiology in Timisoara to tackle this urgent issue. UK experts shared best practices on stewardship and data-driven policy approaches.

Launch of Romanian KMC Guide

On 17 November, WHO Romania launched the Romanian adaptation of the WHO Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) implementation guide at Cotroceni Palace. The event, held during the “România în lumină” celebration of the International Day of the Premature Child, was organized by ARNIS, the Romanian Neonatology Association, in partnership with the Presidential Administration and the Ministry of Health. The guide offers guidance on integrating KMC into health systems to improve survival and developmental outcomes for preterm infants.

România în lumină!



South East European Oral Health Network

WHO EURO and WHO Romania, in close collaboration with the University of Glasgow, hosted the inception workshop of the Southeast European Child Oral Health Network in Bucharest, Romania, 26 - 27 November. The event brought together policymakers and national experts from countries participating in the network as well as observer countries. The meeting marked an important milestone in accelerating action on child oral health, one of the most neglected areas of public health and aimed to strengthen regional collaboration, support evidence-based policy development and lay the foundation for a sustainable multi-country child oral health network.

Stay in Touch

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