



Romania

April 2022

Since 24 February, almost 5.9 million refugees have fled their homes in Ukraine constituting one of the largest refugee movements in decades on the European continent. Over 836,000 refugees have arrived in Romania. More than two months since the start of the conflict, Romania continues to respond with hospitality and solidarity as the needs of those fleeing Ukraine, the majority of whom are women

and children, continue to grow.

In light of the emergency and the scale of humanitarian needs of refugees from Ukraine, an inter-agency regional refugee response is being carried out, in support of the efforts of refugee-hosting countries.

The Refugee Response Plan brings together UN agencies, international and national NGOs

and other relevant partners to work together in support of the Government of Romania to ensure protection and assistance for refugees and third-country nationals fleeing from Ukraine. The response prioritizes the provision of critical protection services and humanitarian assistance, as displacement and needs continue to grow.

KEY FIGURES*

5.5 M

Refugees who have fled Ukraine since 24 February (as of 30 April)

836.2 K

Total refugees who have entered Romania (as of 30 April)

88.4 K

Ukrainian refugees remaining in Romania (as of 30 April)

71%

of refugees staying in Romania are women and children (as of 30 April)

12.3 K

Applied for a temporary protection permit in Romania (as of 30 April)

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

USD 1.85 B

Overall financial requirements

USD 89.8 M

Funding received

37%

Percent funded

USD 239.9 M

Financial requirements for the Romania response

23

Partners involved in the Romania response

*See the [Operational Data Portal for the Ukraine Refugee Situation](#) **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.

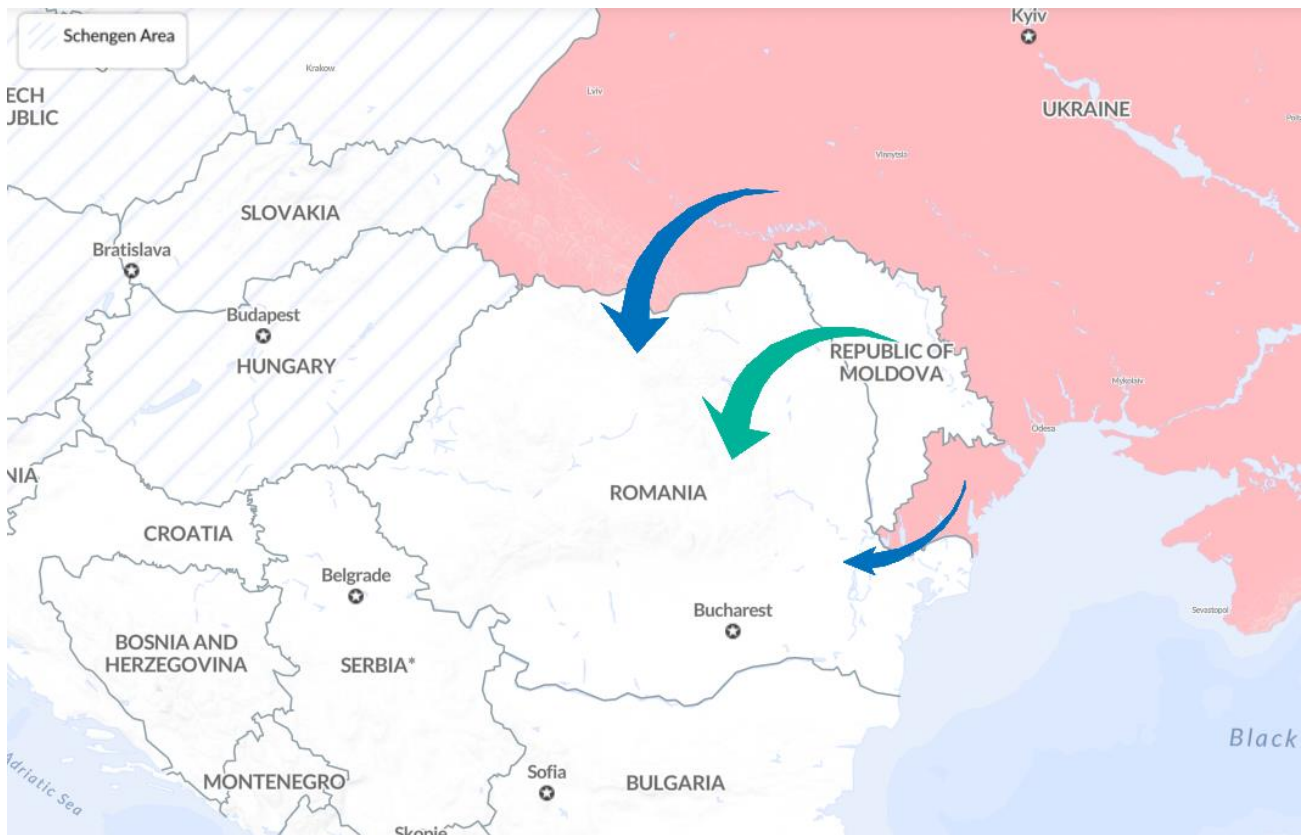
Operational context

As of 30 April, 5.5 million refugees have fled Ukraine. A total of 836,200 have arrived in Romania, with some 88,400 choosing to remain in the country. The majority of refugees in Romania are women and children (71%). Some 12,300 have applied for temporary protection. This allows for access to healthcare, education and the labour market. The majority of refugees are staying in the largest cities including Bucharest, Constanta, Brasov, Galati, Iasi and Suceava.

The Government of Romania has demonstrated exemplary leadership and solidarity with Ukrainian citizens and third-country nationals seeking safety. Furthermore, the Romanian people and civil society have mobilised swiftly to support and welcome refugees.

As the UN agency accountable for protection and assisting refugees, UNHCR ensures a coordinated response in partnership with other UN agencies, international and national NGOs as well as other civil society organizations, complementing the Government of Romania and under its leadership. The Refugee Coordination Forum, made up of sectoral Working Groups, is led by inter-agency leads and co-leads. These leads and co-leads attend the governmental sectoral Working Group meetings, bringing the contribution of UN agencies and NGOs, and bringing back policy decisions taken by the government to inform the humanitarian response. As such, governmental and humanitarian coordination structures are operating to mutually reinforce each other. A total of 23 international and national partners are part of the Refugee Response Plan for Romania.

To ensure a wider geographical area as part of the response, UNHCR has field offices at 3 border crossing points: Siret, Sighet, and Isaccea. Through the Blue Dots, in partnership with UNICEF, essential services such as legal counselling, information and referral are provided.





PROTECTION

Achievements and Impact

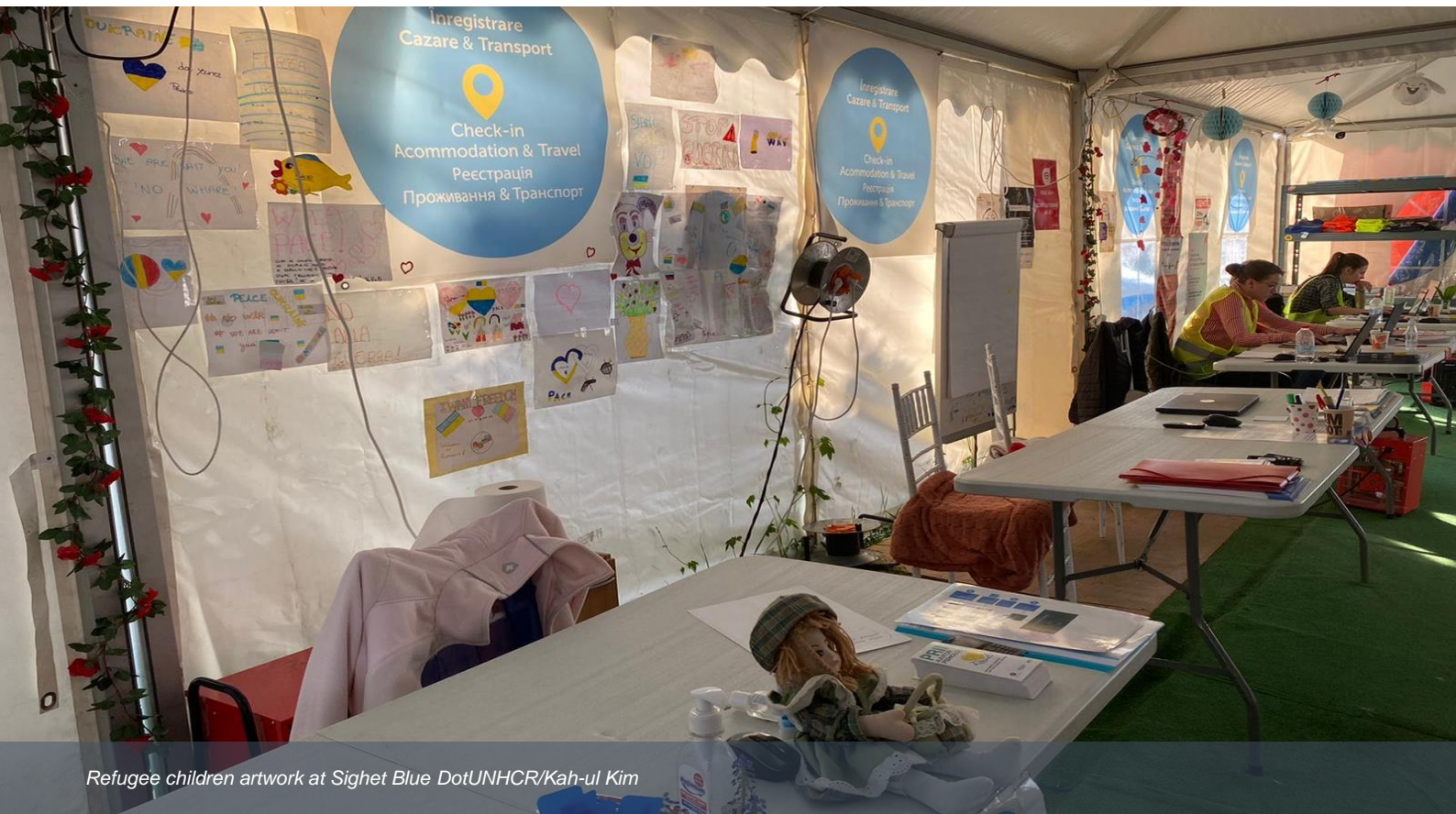
- In April, 3 Protection Working Group (PWG) meetings were held involving 24 INGOs, 16 national NGOs and 2 government institutions providing protection interventions and assistance throughout the country. Thematic areas, including Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Accountability to Affected People (AAP), are integrated within the PWG while an Anti-Trafficking Task Force has recently been established under the umbrella of the PWG.
- As of 3 May, with Romanian NGO partner CNRR, more than 6,000 individuals were counselled in person and over 7,000 via hotlines. The information provided to people of concern covers a wide range of issues including cash assistance, temporary protection, transportation to other EU countries, long-term accommodation, food, employment, education, and access to medical services. Posters and leaflets have been distributed at border checkpoints, transit points, accommodation centers, Blue Dots and cash enrolment centers.
- To ensure access to correct and reliable information, UNHCR, with the Government of Romania, the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR), IOM and Code for Romania, has contributed to the web-based platform [Dopomoha](#) (meaning 'help' in Ukrainian). The website provides verified and up-to-date information in English, Romanian, Ukrainian and Russian on protection and assistance, legal status, education, health, accommodation, transport, counter-trafficking, gender-based violence (GBV) and the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).
- Since the start of the emergency UNHCR has been part of the Governmental coordination structure and sits within CNCCI, to support the authorities through coordination of interventions of UN Agencies, national and international NGOs, and other stakeholders in immediate, medium and longer terms protection response.
- IOM collaborates with the National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons (NAATP) and NGOs from the [ProTECT Platform](#) to create, produce and disseminate anti-trafficking information materials at border crossings, in transit and accommodation centers, and in the most frequently visited places. More than 20,000 flyers have been distributed with the support of the border police, NAATP, and NGO partners. During the reporting period, IOM continued the collection and analysis of data focusing on profile and inclusion to inform assistance in Romania. More than 2,000 interviews were conducted by 21 April 2022.
- The National Youth Foundation is working with the Council of Europe's Youth Department to provide courses to youth workers who will work with young Ukrainians on topics such as hate speech and human rights education. Cooperation was also initiated with the National Employment Agency in order to create a framework for access to employment for young Ukrainians.



GUVERNUL ROMÂNIEI



- "The fast-track transfers – jointly developed by IOM and UNHCR together with the Governments of Romania and the Republic of Moldova – provide a safe, orderly and dignified way to travel from the border with Moldova to Romania. Since March 8, more than 10,000 people have used the fast-track transfer for safe passage from the border crossing point in Palanca, Republic of Moldova, to Huși, Romania, and onward transportation to reception centres.



Refugee children artwork at Sighet Blue Dot/UNHCR/Kah-ul Kim

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The harmonization of the tools for the identification and referral of persons with special needs (PwSN) needs to be coordinated and strengthened.
- Provision of accurate and up-to-date information on rights, registration, documentation and available services needs to be strengthened, including through outreach and expanded communication with communities



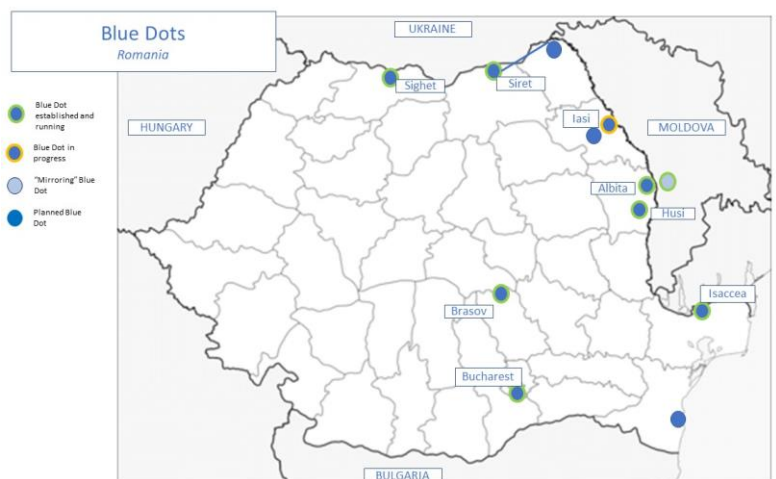
CHILD PROTECTION

Achievements and Impact

- The Child Protection Sub-Working Group (CP SWG) is co-led by UNHCR, UNICEF and the National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of the Child and Adoption (ANPDCA). Its objective is to coordinate child protection activities in Romania due to the influx of refugee children from Ukraine. 26

local and international organizations have so far participated in the CP SWG. On 14 April, ANPDCA presented specific measures related to children outlined in the Romanian Government’s National Plan of Action and all endeavors undertaken in the CP SWG will aim to ensure support and complementarity to these measures once passed.

- UNICEF and UNHCR have jointly established Blue Dots, dedicated refugee children and family support hubs, representing an integrated model that provides support for the most immediate needs of children, women and other vulnerable persons. The Blue Dots in Romania are created in partnership with the Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities through the National Authority for the Protection of Children's Rights and Adoption (ANPDCA) and with the support of local authorities, county authorities and local NGOs, mainly on Romania’s border with Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova as well as in major cities where large Ukrainian communities have settled. Currently, there are seven Blue Dot hubs in Romania. The Blue Dots in Romania have served over 35,000 Ukrainian citizens, mainly women and children, with services such as family reunification, child friendly spaces, counselling and referral to other service providers, and distribution of non-food items, hygiene kits and baby food.
- UNICEF provides technical assistance to the National Authority for the Protection of Children's Rights and Adoption (ANPDCA) to adapt and roll out CPIMS/Primero in Romania, a software platform that helps social services and humanitarian workers register and manage protection-related data, with tools that facilitate case management, incident monitoring and family tracing and reunification. The system is ready to be tested in 2 counties – Vaslui and Timis – and findings will be used to finalize the system before being used nationally. In the meantime, UNICEF’s technical assistance for the development of a new procedure on identification, registration and increased access to social services for children from Ukraine, is ongoing.
- In partnership with the local authorities, Hope and Homes for Children Romania offered support to 220 institutionalized refugee children who arrived in Romania, by preparing the centers in which they were accommodated. Interventions consisted of renovations, provision of furniture and appliances, and basic supplies required to operate the centers. Children were assisted with access to specialized medical services and medicine as well as a food allowance.
- As part of Accountability for Affected Populations (AAP) efforts, UNICEF produced and disseminated communication materials for refugee children and mothers and guidance for Romanian frontline professionals on how to communicate and engage refugee mothers for nutrition and immunization services. UNICEF continues to promote and implement forms to collect feedback on received services and complaints in Blue Dots, including child-friendly and visual models developed and tested.
- Plan International trained mobile teams of frontline CPiE volunteers, in collaboration with the local partner ADRA Romania. This emergency response project will deploy a total of 5 mobile teams across



the country, working in transit centers, shelters, and Blue Dot locations to provide direct assistance to refugee children and families from Ukraine.

- Save the Children provided information and advice desks at 6 border crossings (Galati, Isaccea, Sculeni, Sighetu, Siret, Baia Mare), in 3 asylum centres (Bucharest, Galati, Radauti) and in 3 temporary centres (RomExpo, E-gros and Radauti). Save the Children established 7 child-friendly spaces (RomExpo, Bucharest Train station, Galati border crossing, Sculeni border crossing, E-gros, Siret border crossing, Radauti temporary camp, Baia Mare). 4 mobile teams are operating and providing information and psychosocial support.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Although the Inter-Ministerial Order issued in mid-March has helped to strengthen the identification of unaccompanied and separated children at border crossing points, there are potential gaps and concerns over children who may be separated post-arrival in Romania. UNHCR and partners will continue to increase protection monitoring activities to support the identification and registration of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) and other children at risk, including those with disabilities, and better understand their protection needs to enhance overall child protection response and interventions.
- The identification of children arriving in Romania from institutional care in Ukraine remains a key priority. Partners aim to support the local child protection authorities to ensure these particularly vulnerable children receive access to the necessary services, including family tracing, and that any onward movement is conducted in line with the instructions of the national authorities.



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Achievements and Impact:

- Gender-based violence (GBV) is integrated under the PWG. Significant advancement was made on referral pathways; some 14 NGOs and 1 government institution have been identified and endorsed for inclusion into the referral pathways. A comprehensive training package covering GBV has been finalized and will roll out to partners in Suceava, Iasi and Galati. It is expected that with capacity-building sessions for authorities, volunteers, refugees and NGO partners, GBV case management and reporting on GBV will improve.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Current challenges include the limited expertise amongst NGOs on GBV including in the provision of services to survivors which the trainings are meant to address. CARE is conducting a Rapid Gender Analysis (RGA). The RGA is based on secondary data and key informant interviews in Bucharest and Isaccea/Tulcea. The objective is to assess the needs and concerns of women, girls and boys in Romania fleeing conflict in Ukraine with a focus on the most marginalized and at-risk groups.



PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE (PSEA)

Achievements and Impact:

- Following the establishment of the PSEA Network with the participation from local and international organizations and co-led by UNHCR and World Vision International, the terms of reference and initial action plan were endorsed.
- Two UNHCR-UNICEF training sessions on PSEA took place. The training was attended by approximately 40 organizations (mostly local). The training covered power relations, defining and recognizing PSEA, the survivor-centred approach, and reporting mechanisms, as well as the UNICEF toolkit for implementing a PSEA policy for NGOs.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- An initial risk assessment compiled results from 23 organizations and interviews with 14 Network members. Risks were identified in relation to the large number of arrivals, rapid expansion of workforce and the lack of clear reporting channels and referral pathways.



CASH-BASED ASSISTANCE

Achievements and Impact:

- Cash Working Group (CWG) members developed a methodological paper which summarizes the joint and common approaches of the actors in the country and facilitates the sharing of know-how for new actors. The CWG agreed on a joint transfer amount of 568 RON (approximately \$120) per person per month, is in line with the sum provided by the Government of Romania to refugees. The CWG has agreed on unique identifiers to be used for de-duplicating similar Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance and will finalize a data-sharing agreement in May.
- UNHCR enrolled 749 households (2,023 individuals) for cash assistance in April, with 295 households (827 individuals) already processed for payment. The enrolment is done through an enrolment centre in Bucharest, and additional sites for enrolment in Brasov, Galati, and Suceava have been identified and are planned to be open in May. Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) and Plan International have provided voucher assistance for Menstrual Health and Hygiene (MHH) items to almost 200 refugee adolescent girls in Bucharest. Action Contre La Faim (ACF) has started a Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance pilot through local partners in Bucharest with Carusel, in Iasi and in Suceava with BRCT. Save the Children has started piloting Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) activities in Suceava and Iasi. A total of 129 vouchers have been distributed to 45 households consisting of 122 individuals and 12 children under 2 years old.



Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Logistical challenges in staffing and appropriate enrolment have impeded a rapid scale up of enrolment and delivery of cash assistance.
- Additional mapping of social protection and assistance benefits is needed to ensure the transition from transitional cash assistance to government programmes.



Pablo Zapata, UNHCR Representative in Romania at the Isaccea border point, Eastern border with Ukraine, talking to the partners on the ground from CNRR-Romanian National Council for Refugees and AIDRom. ©UNHCR/Gabriela Leu



BASIC NEEDS – SHELTER, NFI, WASH, FOOD SECURITY, LOGISTICS

Achievements and Impact:

- The Basic Needs Working Group – covering shelter, WASH, food, core relief/non-food items and logistics –convened with the participation of 20 agencies and government counterparts.
- IOM provided accommodation for 107 Ukrainians and other third-country nationals (TCNs) fleeing the conflict through cash transfers via the Airbnb platform, based on a regional agreement signed with Airbnb.org. IOM distributed non-food items and hygiene products in several reception centres across Romania, including in Bucharest, Vaslui and Sighetu Marmatiei. World Vision delivered over \$200,000 worth of food, hygiene items, telecommunications equipment and baby supplies to RomExpo, Bucharest’s largest temporary accommodation site. UNHCR is building a stock of core relief items (CRI) in 3 warehouses located in Bucharest. UNICEF has completed an assessment for the water, sanitation, and hygiene needs at four border locations and the needs of the borders and transit locations have been translated into a supply and procurement plan.

- The Basic Needs Working Group launched a virtual warehouse to facilitate management of stocks of food and non-food items and requests for additional basic needs support.
- Thanks to the generosity of the host community, refugees can find (through www.Dopomoha.ro) decent accommodation where they can stay free of charge for several months. Additionally, hotels and youth centres are used as communal shelters in the main cities in eastern Romania.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Even if cash-based assistance is scaled up with partners, in-kind assistance will be needed, especially for newly arrived refugees. Provision of dry foods and baby products is challenging due to high demand.



EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

- The Education Sub-Working Group (SWG) is co-led by UNICEF and the Ministry of Education (MoE) and aims to enhance the education of refugee children from Ukraine and integrate them within the national education system. The membership includes 28 local and international organizations. At the first meeting of the Education SWG, the MoE presented the education measures and activities of the Romanian Government's National Plan of Action and all activities of the Education SWG members are aligned with this plan and will ensure support and complementarity to these measures.
- Currently 1,791 Ukrainian students, out of which, 651 preschoolers, are enrolled in Romanian schools. An additional 2,068 applications for enrolment, of which 710 are preschoolers, are in process. This total does not include informal arrangements at local levels whereby groups of Ukrainian students and teachers are being hosted on the premises of Romanian schools.
- UNICEF provided school-in-a-box, backpacks, and early childhood development (ECD) kits to refugee children at the "Mihai Viteazul" Lyceum and "Uruguay" School in Bucharest and school N11 in Constanta, covering more than 700 preschool and school-age refugee children. UNICEF partnered with the Romanian NGO Angel Appeal and the Regina Maria Foundation, which help refugee children to follow the Ukrainian curriculum online, access psychological support and participate in various extra-curricular activities aimed at better integration into the Romanian education system, accelerated learning of the Romanian language and strengthening cohesion and solidarity. UNICEF procured 150 tablets to support online studies of refugee children in "Uruguay." Together with the MoE and partners, UNICEF outlined the 'Play and Parenting Hubs' concept for preschoolers to provide quality and inclusive ECD/early learning for refugee and host community children. For this, UNICEF and Step by Step Romania launched a partnership to create Play and Parenting Hubs in communities with the largest influx of Ukrainian children and families. UNICEF launched the parenting application 'Bebbo' in the Ukrainian language and activated a promo campaign on social media targeting the refugee parents and guardians in Romania. Supported by Step by Step, the app is being translated into Romanian and adapted for use by parents in the country.
- As part of the SIERCAR (Safe and Inclusive Education for Refugee Children and Adolescents in Romania) project in partnership between JRS and Plan International, a total of 100 tablets were distributed to the temporary learning space at a shelter centre managed by JRS. 60 were distributed to a temporary learning space at the Colegiul National 'Mihai Viteazul' which is currently supporting 227 Ukrainian children and their teachers to continue studying the Ukrainian school curriculum.

- Save the Children Romania (Salvați Copiii) is supporting Ukrainian students at Veronica Micle school in Iași through the provision of cultural mediators and educational technology to support children's engagement and integration. Veronica Micle school is hosting 52 Ukrainian children who were previously resident in an orphanage in Ukraine and are now being hosted along with their caregivers in a centre for minors in Iași.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In the absence of data on the number of children enrolled in non-formal education programs following the Ukrainian curriculum in the country, the education response remains demand-driven and reactive. It is necessary to create a unified data collection system and work with the MoE to guide County School Inspectorates to collect data on children receiving educational services provided by Ukrainian teachers and NGOs in schools and community centres.
- To support Ukrainian children to access learning there is a need for additional and suitable learning spaces. There is also a shortage of teachers who can teach in Ukrainian. The legal and administrative processes to register Ukrainian teachers in Romania continues to present a challenge.
- Mental health and psychosocial support remain an issue of concern for refugee children, parents, and teachers. Panic attacks, aggression, and low attention span result from the children's traumatic experiences. Regular school routines are needed for young Ukrainians to heal and for their mothers to look for jobs. The schools and implementing partners face shortages of Ukrainian-speaking psychologists to provide individual and group counselling and support. The same applies to the lack of specialists in inclusive education and specialists working with children with disabilities.



HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Achievements and Impact

- WHO, co-lead of the Health Working Group (HWG) along with the Ministry of Health, ensures partner and broader coordination through weekly HWG meetings, participation in periodic meetings of the Ministry of Health-led Working Group on health policies for refugees, engaging with Ministry of Health senior staff and leadership on establishing joint priority areas for protecting and promoting refugees' health rights.
- To ensure increased technical capacity to protect and promote refugees' health, WHO conducted a Behavioural Insights in-country mission and established a rapid assessment study on health service needs, gaps, barriers, and drivers of uptake of health services by refugees. The first results and recommendations of the study will be available shortly. WHO further conducted an in-country mission on risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) and developed an RCCE plan for Romania. Work continues with Bucharest University Emergency Hospital to make it a 'refugee friendly' hospital with the intention to collaboratively develop a package of resources that can be replicated by other hospitals.
- IOM distributed medicines in 3 reception centres in Bucharest. The IOM medical team conducted health assessments for 38 Ukrainians and accompanied nine persons to the hospital for specialized treatments. IOM medical team provided a pre-embarkation check (PEC) for 14 third country-nationals

(TCNs) legally residing in Ukraine before the conflict. All TCNs were supported with the humanitarian return to countries of origin.

- UNICEF established partnerships with 3 local NGOs that will offer medical services and referrals for 1,800 women, 50 newborns, and 600 children refugees in Bucharest and will organize accommodation and integration services, including juridical and psychological support for 130 refugees per night in Bucharest and neighboring towns.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gap

- Based on partners' consultations and interviews with refugees, the main barriers are related to gaps in information, compounded by a language barrier. There are also gaps in some service delivery (e.g., immunizations, continuity of care for chronic disease patients, including o appropriate medication, maternal and reproductive health).



MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

Achievements and Impact

- The MHPSS SWG is co-led by the Romanian Ministry of Health and WHO. The group has agreed Terms of reference and a MHPSS Emergency Response Plan has been developed and continuously updated. The MHPSS service mapping in Romania was completed and shared with the partners.
- WHO together with the Ministry of Health and the DSU (Department of Emergency Situations) developed a set of Psychological First Aid (PFA) materials (for print and web) based on WHO PFA guidelines, to be disseminated to first responders. WHO together with the Ministry of Health and DSU is undertaking a needs assessment, to develop a series of workshops to provide PFA training to first responders working at border points and in refugee centers. CARE provided PSS/First Aid trauma training to more than 500 volunteers and professionals working with FONPC members.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- A MHPSS needs assessment is undergoing and data is being collected for analysis



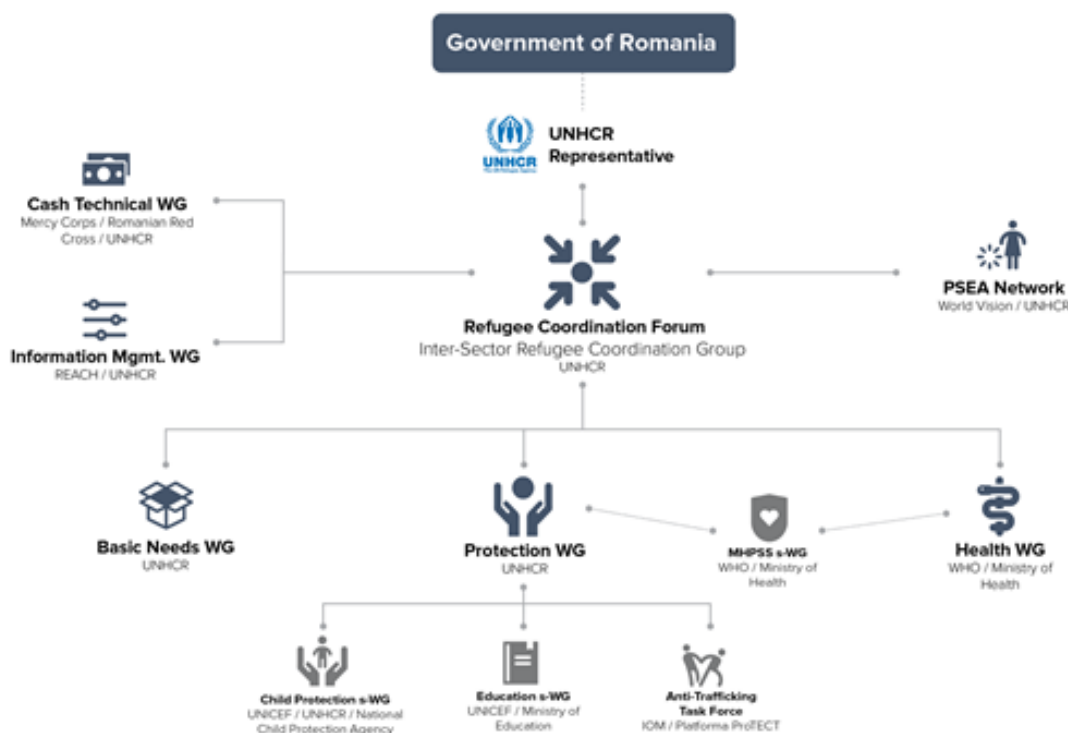
Working in partnership

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mutually. A total of 23 international and national partners are part of the Refugee Response Plan for Romania.

The Regional Response Plan for Refugees from Ukraine, initially presented on 1 March, was revised, and formally launched on 27 April 2022, covering the period March to December 2022. It will be followed by a national launch event in Bucharest, Romania.

Refugee Coordination Structure in Romania



ACTIONAID | Action Contre la Faim | CARE France | Cesvi | Danish Refugee Council | Federation for Social Services (FONSS) | Hope and Homes for Children | IOM | Jesuit Refugee Service | Mercy Corps | National Youth Foundation | Norwegian Refugee Council | PLAN International | Project Hope | Save the Children | Terre des Hommes | UNESCO | UNFPA | UNHCR | UNICEF | WHO | WFP | World Vision

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LINKS

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