



Romania

June 2022

Since 24 February, about 5.5 million refugees from Ukraine have been recorded across Europe, constituting the largest refugee movement in decades on the European continent. Close to 1.2 million refugees have arrived in Romania, supported by the Government and civil society's hospitality and generosity. The Refugee Response Plan (RRP) brings together UN agencies, international and national NGOs, and other partners to support the Government in protecting and assisting refugees.

More than four months into the conflict, humanitarian actors are focused on scale-up of resources and staffing, the establishment of more predictable protection and assistance structures in close cooperation with national services and social protection systems, and improvement of information-sharing across needs and gaps. In this regard, the second Refugee Coordination Forum was held on 24 June with officials from the Government, partners, and donors.

On 29 June, the Government approved and released the National Plan of measures for the protection and inclusion of refugees from Ukraine in Romania. UNHCR and partners are working closely with Government counterparts to ensure complementarity and synergies between the National Plan and the RRP.

KEY FIGURES*

5.5 M	1.2 M	86.2 K	42.7 K	65.9%
Refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe (as of 29 June)	Total refugees who have entered Romania (as of 30 June)	Ukrainian refugees remain in Romania (as of 30 June)	Applied for temporary protection permit in Romania (as of 26 June)	of refugees applying for temporary protection are women (as of 26 June)

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

USD 1.85 B	USD 891M	48%	USD 239.9M	23
Overall financial requirements	Funding received	Percent funded	Financial requirements for the Romania response	Partners involved in the Romania response

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

As of 30 June, about 5.5 million refugees from Ukraine have been recorded across Europe. A total of 1,237,596 have arrived in Romania, with some 86,154 choosing to remain in the country. Some 42,742 have applied for temporary protection, which enables access to healthcare, education, and the labour market. Most refugees are staying in the largest cities including Bucharest, Constanta, Brasov, Galați, Iași and Suceava.

The second Refugee Coordination Forum Meeting was held on 24 June 2022. Officials of the Government of Romania, partners and donors attended the meeting. An overview of the RRP and synergies with National Plan of Romania were presented, with special emphasis on child protection and health. The Government of Romania adopted the “Emergency Ordinance on the implementation of the National Plan of Measures for the Protection and Inclusion of Displaced Persons from Ukraine and Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection in Romania” as an exemplary step towards enhancing the protection and inclusion of refugees from Ukraine who choose to stay in Romania on 29 June 2022. RRP partners have expressed their support in the implementation of the measures in the National Plan in their respective areas of expertise.



UNICEF and UNHCR colleagues meeting with representatives from DGASPC at the Blue Dot in Huși and Vaslui county, 28 June 2022. © UNHCR/Jonathan Torres.



PROTECTION

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR and the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR), provided in-person support to more than 13,000, and hotline support to over 10,500 refugees. Information requested concerns cash assistance, temporary protection, transportation to other EU countries, long-term accommodation, food, employment, education, and access to medical services.
- UNHCR and IOM continue to jointly support the authorities of Romania and Moldova by facilitating fast-track transfers from Palanca border crossing point with Ukraine, in Moldova, to Huși, Romania. As of 26 June, around 11,200 people have been transported to Romania through this mechanism. UNHCR partner ACTED also provides transportation for people from border crossing points to other locations in Moldova and Romania.
- UNHCR, UNICEF, the Child Protection Authority and NGOs, continue to strengthen the number of Blue Dots and their services. There are currently four Blue Dots in Brasov, Huși, Sighet and Siret, and seven Light Blue Dots in Albița, Bucharest, Isaccea and Iași.
- UNHCR carried out comprehensive protection training sessions in Iași and Vaslui on refugee and child protection, gender-based violence, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, and accountability to affected people for over 140 Government officials, humanitarian workers and volunteers from 5 to 8 June. IOM conducted a session on anti-trafficking. A similar training was delivered to 15 new staff.
- JRS provided holistic counselling and assistance to more than 4,500 individuals on asylum-related procedures, temporary protection, voluntary repatriation or further movements, and integration.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Need for provision of up-to-date and accurate information on rights, registration, documentation and available services, overcoming language barriers, advocating for registration, increasing both human and material resources at the border areas and in refugee temporary accommodation facilities, strengthening the capacity of government officials (Border Police, DSU and Police), NGO representatives and volunteers working at border crossing points and accommodation centres, and providing support to the most vulnerable categories in remote areas.



ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS (AAP) / COMMUNICATION WITH COMMUNITIES (CWC)

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR and UNICEF are co-leading the newly created task force. The TOR was presented and validated by members. The taskforce allows resource sharing, coordination on assessment and information, and elaboration of common tools. A mapping of AAP initiatives and feedback response mechanisms is also being carried out and constantly updated.
- Romanian content has been integrated into the Ukraine chatbot for easy reference.
- The creation of a UNHCR Romania telegram channel has been validated at national and HQ level. It will be piloted with one-way communication and eventually expanded to two-way.
- A capacity building package for Government, NGOs, and volunteers, including awareness on AAP and CwC has been developed, as well as awareness building on two-way mechanisms and an accountability package for focus group discussions with refugees.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is a need to further coordinate communication tools and response and integrate the messaging into existing communications channels used by refugees (telegram groups, viber groups).
- Mapping the virtual communities is a priority, and a community communication tree is being developed by UNHCR and should be permanently extended and updated. Coordination with PwSN organizations for content suitable for older people and people with disabilities is also paramount.



CHILD PROTECTION

Achievements and Impact

- UNICEF and the National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of the Child and Adoption (ANPDCA) in partnership with other organizations started the roll out of CPIMS+/PRIMERO, an open-source software platform that facilitates case management, incident monitoring, and family tracing and reunification. Social workers from 41 county-level General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPCs) were trained on using PRIMERO.
- UNHCR facilitated child protection trainings for 173 DGASPC staff, NGO partners and volunteers in Vaslui and Iași, and 16 new staff in Galați and Iași focusing on the risks children face in emergencies, community participation in child protection, child friendly communication and referral of cases.
- Terre des Hommes (TdH) continues to operate in three locations in Bucharest, providing MHPSS services, individual protection assistance, information and referrals, translation and guidance to 233, 26, 347 and 186 beneficiaries respectively (Gara de Nord, sală de atenție 3, Bucuresti, Robin Hood Centre for Children in Alternative Care, Dinicu Golescu Semi-Permanent Centre).
- Cesvi with SOS Bambini Romania provided recreational activities for 12 children in Sighetu-Marmatei and engaged 30 children from municipal and private shelters in Tulcea county in recreational activities.
- UNICEF and UNHCR, through their partners, provided integrated services to approximately 2,000 beneficiaries at all 7 Blue Dots across the country (Albița and Huși, Bucharest sector 6, Brasov, Isaccea, Sighetu Marmatiei, Siret).
- As part of Blue Dot scale-up strategy, UNICEF and DGASPC Vaslui conducted a participatory review of the Blue Dots in Albița and Huși to identify good practices and lessons learned and to collectively identify the priorities for the second tier of Blue Dots.
- UNICEF and DGASPC Iași set up a Blue Dot at Sculeni border crossing, which may benefit more than 300,000 refugees in case of conflict escalation.
- UNICEF and DGASPC initiated a mapping of all Child Protection service providers in Iași and Vaslui to facilitate local authorities' work in referring vulnerable people to available services.
- UNHCR and IOM delivered protection training to 68 Child Protection DGASPC staff in Vaslui and Iași from 6 to 8 June.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- As refugees live in various locations in Romania, outreach to refugee children to identify and respond to their needs remains both a challenge and a priority. Similarly, follow up on the situation of unaccompanied and separated children residing in the community requires strengthening. These will soon be addressed with the impending planned roll out of CPIMS+/ PRIMERO.
- Coordination of efforts at local level remains an issue. DGASPC as the leading authority for Child Protection, is often neglected/overlooked by other partners when planning their interventions.



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR called for an expression of interest and received nine concept notes. UNHCR selected two new partners for Gender Based Violence (GBV) and had individual meetings with them to discuss and finalize the scope of GBV service provision, case management, advocacy, and capacity building of all stakeholders including government, national and international NGOs, and volunteers.
- Referral pathways were reviewed, and an organisation providing services to the LGBTQI community covering both Romanian Nationals and Ukrainian refugees has been added.

- Referral pathways were finalized for Bucharest, Iași and Galați, and shared with protection actors. 36 organizations including national and international NGOs and government institutions are part of the current referral pathways. Translation of referral pathways into Romanian, Ukrainian and Russian languages is in the final stage and will be uploaded onto Dopomoha platform and widely circulated.
- GBV awareness sessions/discussions were held with 65 Ukrainians in Iași, Vaslui and Berlad and information shared on emergency numbers and services provided to GBV survivors.
- As part of comprehensive protection training, 71 staff from DGASPC and 69 staff of NGOs and volunteers were trained on GBV prevention, core concepts and guiding principles in Iași and Vaslui. DGASPC Directors in both locations requested to organize more training sessions for remaining staff.
- 15 new UNHCR staff who will enrol refugees for cash assistance were also trained on basic GBV.
- UNFPA consultant has been onboard since last week of June.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Needs include strengthening the capacity of government officials (Border Police, DSU and Police), NGO representatives and volunteers working at border crossing points; establishing safe houses/shelters for GBV survivors; enhancing awareness among refugees on GBV service provision; resolving language barriers by interpretation in Ukrainian and Russian languages especially for hotlines/emergency numbers; building confidence among Romanians and Ukrainians about GBV service providers; having service providers for medical, Clinical Management of Rape (CMR) and legal support to GBV survivors, and advocating for reporting GBV cases.



On 24 June 2022, children seen relaxing at the UNHCR cash enrollment center at RomExpo in Bucharest. © UNHCR/Gabriela Leu.



TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

Achievements and Impact

- The Crisis Response Anti Trafficking Task Force (CRATTF) had two meetings during June. Task force members undertook rapid mapping and needs assessments on the EU Table on the implementation of the recommendations for the Member States of the Common Anti-Trafficking Plan to address the risks of trafficking in human beings and protection potential victims among those fleeing Ukraine.
- IOM Romania with the National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons and ProTECT platform, have created and produced 43,000 copies of anti-trafficking safety messaging awareness cards. These cards have been and will continue to be produced and distributed with the assistance of border police and partners for refugees retained with their passports.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- A rapid needs assessment based on experiences and input of task force members identified the following needs:
 - Uniformed and standardized monitoring and evaluation instruments, systems (risks, trends)
 - Capacity building in agreement with national and local authorities with a uniform approach and standards targeting critical locations and actors
 - Contextualizing risks and actions to be very specific to the Romanian context
 - Sharing information and awareness materials among refugees based on their actual needs and prevention materials in host communities
 - Coordination among all actors and stakeholders
 - Transnational Referral Mechanism
 - Social assistance for temporary protection and employment mediation
 - Specialized assistance for potential victims such as medical, legal, protection, etc.
 - Individualized prevention measures
- A holistic, and multi-disciplinary risk assessment regarding trafficking in persons with concrete practical recommendations will be undertaken.
- Finalization of CRATTF action plan is needed: prevention and capacity-building on identification and referral amongst first responders and other relevant actors is a priority.



PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (PSEA)

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR conducted one awareness session for 28 Ukrainian refugees on PSEA and five training sessions on PSEA for 155 humanitarian workers and government staff engaged in the refugee response, including 16 new UNHCR cash enrolment staff.
- WVI delivered safeguarding training for 15 new and deployed staff; AMURTEL conducted a PSEA workshop at the refugee centre at CATTIA Brasov for 16 staff, social workers and volunteers attended.
- CNRR reviewed and improved its PSEA policy, updated its victim referral pathways, and made available feedback boxes in the Bucharest office and the online reporting tool remains functional.
- ActionAid conducted a policy review for one of their partners and introductory sensitization on Safeguarding/ PSEA for 5 of its partners.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- PSEA Network members have raised the need for harmonized terminology on PSEA.
- There is a need for Inter-Agency SOPs for victim referrals and is planning accordingly.



CASH-BASED ASSISTANCE

Achievements and Impact

- As of 29 June, UNHCR has enrolled 8,565 individuals and cash has been transferred to around 8,000 individuals. Enrolment took place at centres in Bucharest, Brasov, Galați, Iași, and Suceava.
- Efforts are ongoing for systematically reporting assistance delivery progress for all Cash WG members.
- UNHCR and Red Cross had a bilateral discussion on the data sharing agreements for de-duplication process and agreed to share individual level data with tentative plan. Moreover, Red Cross agreed to de-register beneficiaries who opt to be enrolled with UNHCR for assistance.
- Red Cross disqualified all registrations done on 20 June 2022 in Suceava and Botoșani on the grounds of brokers receiving money for registering refugees in their online platform and did not provide cash assistance. Red Cross is going to monitor the situation and put more mitigation measures including temporary suspension of its programme in these locations.
- The Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance continues to be provided up to 3-months, while the Sectoral/Protection Cash Assistance can be extended beyond the initial three months.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Efforts are ongoing to systematically reporting assistance delivery progress for all CWG members and avoid duplication of assistance.

EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

- Until the end of the current school year 2,577 Ukrainian children, including 991 pre-schoolers, were enrolled in Romanian schools. No more enrolments are expected to be reported until end-August/September when the new school year will start.
- UNICEF and the Ministry of Education (MoE) are currently testing the online platform for the rapid collection of student-level data, particularly the registration and attendance of Ukrainian children, both in formal and non-formal education in Bucharest.
- UNICEF and MoE continued a promo campaign on social media to raise awareness about the Bebo Parenting Application that can be used in Ukrainian language. Additionally, UNICEF, MoE and the Romanian NGO Step by Step Centre carried out an extensive selection process following which communities hosting refugees will receive support to establish 15 PrimoHub centres for playing, learning and parental skills. In parallel, the Step by Step, with the support of War Child and AMNA, has trained 10 early education trainers on psychosocial support provision for children and families.
- The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) signed a partnership agreement with the National Youth Foundation to establish and support centres for vulnerable and conflict affected youth in Bucharest and Tulcea to engage in learning activities, life skill courses and receive the necessary psychosocial support as well as promote linkages with their host communities.
- SCR continues to support Ukrainian students access digital learning, recreational activities and MHPSS in schools in Bucharest, Iași and Suceava, while Plan and JRS assisted 200 Ukrainian children in Bucharest, Constanta and Galați with extracurricular activities through daily trips. Through voucher assistance, 250 Ukrainian adolescence girls were assisted with menstrual hygiene materials (MHM) and distribution of 200 tablets in June is completed in Constanta and Galați.
- With support from Plan and JRS (SEIRCAR), 75 Romanian and Ukrainian children have benefitted from summer camp activities, which will continue until end-July with 320 children to be assisted. SCR has also identified seven schools from within and beyond their existing network with which to implement summer activities involving Ukrainian and Romanian children across the counties of Bucharest, Iași, Suceava, Maramureș, Galați, Tulcea and Constanța, with training of facilitators set to start in early July. SCR has launched the Mobile School programme in Bucharest, building on work under its domestic programme in Iași, and this will be used for educational outreach over the summer.
- IOM is organizing Romanian language courses for Ukrainian nationals (adults and children). In June, 195 persons registered for the courses and attended activities organized by IOM and partners.
- CNRR provided legal information and counselling to 300 refugees who 27.9% of them were at school age (5 to 17). From mid-June, CNRR's integration teams became fully operational, offering counselling sessions in Bucharest, Constanta, Galați, and Suceava.

- Plan and JRS trained 40 teachers from Bucharest and Constanta on MHPSS, Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), inclusive education, multicultural education, child protection, safeguarding and gender responsive pedagogy. The recruitment and remuneration of 53 teachers was completed in June and includes Romanian teachers for language and summer activities. Save the Children has also begun a Training of Trainers for the Team Up MHPSS approach, which will be rolled out to education facilitators and teachers over the summer.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Data remains fragmented and incomplete, with little information available on numbers of children accessing Ukrainian online education from within Romania, and data on Ukrainian children's engagement with the Romanian education system (through enrolment, or through the establishment of digital learning spaces in Romanian schools) largely staying at the level of county inspectorates.
- The ongoing mobility of Ukrainians into and out of Romania, as well as within Romania, makes it challenging to predict what enrolment patterns are likely to look like for the 2022-23 school year.
- There is an urgent need to simplify the procedures for enrolment of Ukrainian children in Romanian schools ahead of the likely increase in requests for enrolment for the 2022-23 school year.



HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Achievements and Impact

- WHO with the support of the Ministry of Health officially launched an integrated service centre at RomExpo in Bucharest. The centre offers primary health care, reproductive health services and psychological counselling and emotional support for children and adult refugees.
- WHO completed its qualitative study "Behavioural insights on refugee health service needs and access" which highlighted some important findings: perceived high costs for healthcare services which are in fact cost free in Romania; perceived high quality of services provided by health professionals.
- WHO with the support of the Ministry of Health, the National Health Insurance House and the National Institute of Public Health developed and widely disseminated information materials online, focusing on access to healthcare, health rights, vaccination and medicine for refugees, humanitarian, and healthcare workers in Ukrainian, Romanian, and English languages.
- UNICEF established a partnership with Regina Maria to provide essential health services for 2,000 children and adult refugees in Bucharest and surroundings.
- WHO conducted a technical mission between 6-10 June in Bucharest on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) focused on assessment on SEA risks, existing PSEA policies and ongoing activities implemented by WHO CO, UN sister agencies, and governmental and non-governmental partners in the context of Ukrainian humanitarian emergency.
- IOM medical team continues to provide health assessments for Ukrainian nationals and third country nationals (TCNs). In June, 172 Ukrainians (adults and children) underwent a medical examination in the IOM premises. Pre-embarkation health checks (PEC) were also performed for 24 Ukrainian nationals transiting Romania.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is a growing need for continuation of care for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), child immunization, acute conditions (e.g., respiratory viruses, COVID-19); SRH; mental health support.
- Clear data on health needs and requirements, information, and access to free services are needed.
- Language barriers remain a challenge.

**MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)****Achievements and Impact**

- The MHPSS Needs assessment is underway.
- Estura Foundation provided voluntary MHPSS services at RomExpo for the first week of June. WHO provided resources and the technical platform to enhance coordinated and focused MHPSS.
- UNICEF established a partnership with Good Neighbours to provide psychosocial support for refugee children attending the Blue Dots in Suceava and Isaceea.
- IOM Romania is providing psychosocial support in partnership with WHO and others. Individual psychosocial counselling, group sessions, and social counselling provided for 27 persons.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Identification of MHPSS Referral Pathway gaps for major cities based on beneficiary needs.

**BASIC NEEDS – SHELTER, NON-FOOD ITEMS, WASH, FOOD SECURITY****Achievements and Impact**

- Sector indicators developed and endorsed, ensuring the connection with the National Plan.
- UNHCR released the KoboTool to partners to enable assessment of Shelter furniture needs and obtain Shelter locations for further winter comfort assessment.
- Winterization strategies under development.
- In June, IOM distributed 17,511 hygiene products to the Social Assistance and Child Protection Directorates, local NGOs and organizations. IOM continues to provide hygiene kits to affected populations and institutions.
- UNICEF is scoping out WASH needs and continues to coordinate requests for support from partners.
- Until end-June, Habitat for Humanity offered short-term accommodation for 345 people, medium-term accommodation for about 200 people, and long-term accommodation for 61 people. Around 700 people benefited from housing improvements.
- Habitat for Humanity also provided 3,000 emergency kits within the transit points around the country.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is a need to equip medium- and long-term accommodation sites with adequate supplies (e.g. pillows, blankets, sheets, towels, kitchen equipment, etc.).

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

ACTIONAID | ACTION CONTRE LA FAIM | CARE INTERNATIONAL | CESVI | DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL | FEDERATION OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS 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 Operational Data Portal – Ukraine Situation RRP – Refugee Funding Tracker](#)