



# Romania

August 2022

Since the start of the international armed conflict in Ukraine which has forced some 7 million people to flee their homes seeking safety, protection and assistance across Europe, more than 1.7 million border crossings into Romania have been recorded. The Government and partners including civil society, the private sector, volunteers, and international organizations have responded to the crisis with generosity and hospitality.

As of the end of August 2022, 86,178 refugees remain in Romania; 59,056 of them have obtained Temporary Protection (TP) status (58,365 Ukrainian and 691 Third-Country Nationals (TCNs).

UNHCR supports the Government of Romania in coordinating humanitarian actors under the framework of the Regional Refugee Response (RRP) and through the Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) and sector working groups.

The RRP response is aligned with and complementary to the National Plan (NP) of measures for the protection and inclusion of displaced persons from Ukraine, beneficiaries of TP in Romania; a vision for the medium and long-term refugee response in Romania.

## KEY FIGURES\* (as of end August)

**7 M**

Refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe

**1.7 M**

Border crossings into Romania

**86.1 K**

Refugees from Ukraine remaining in Romania

**55.9 K**

Refugees who obtained temporary protection in Romania

**65%**

Of refugees who obtained temporary protection are women and girls

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

**USD 1.85 B**

Overall financial requirements

**68%**

Funded for the overall RRP

**USD 239.9 M**

Financial requirements for the Romania response

**65%**

Funded for the Romania response

**30**

Partners involved in the Romania response

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

As of 30 August 2022, about 7 million refugees from Ukraine have been recorded across Europe. A total of 1,726,686 border crossings from Ukraine and Moldova into Romania have been recorded since 24 February 2022, with some 86,178 choosing to remain in the country. Some 59,056 have obtained temporary protection, which enables access to healthcare, education, and the labour market. Most refugees are staying in large cities such as Bucharest, Constanta, Brasov, and Valcea.



*A 17-year-old Ukrainian refugee from Kyiv, with some of her sketches in a park in Bucharest, Romanian.  
©UNHCR/Andrew McConnel*



## PROTECTION SECTOR

### Achievements and Impact

- To date, over 31,250 refugees received protection support, advice, referrals and information in person (19,150) and remotely through helplines (12,119). UNHCR's dedicated [Help Webpage](#) aimed at providing information to refugees from Ukraine was visited more than 66,500 times since the beginning of the emergency.
- UNHCR and partners Romanian National Council for Refugees and REACH have been undertaking a Protection Profiling and Monitoring exercise to regularly collect and analyse data on the profiles, needs and intentions of refugees from Ukraine to strengthen and promote an evidence-based protection response. The main results are reflected in a [dashboard](#) and are based on 3,240 interviews conducted between May and mid-August 2022.
- UNICEF and UNHCR continue to assist refugees at Blue Dots throughout Romania (Sighet, Siret, Husi, Isaccea, Bucharest and Brasov). Some 45,000 individuals have been assisted at the hubs. The main queries received by refugees relate to temporary protection and related rights, including access to the labour market, housing, medical services and education. Plans are ongoing to establish a new Blue Dot in Galati (near the border with the Republic of Moldova) and to enhance the Blue Dot in Isaccea (near the border with Ukraine) by the end of September.
- A new Counselling Desk has been set up inside the RomExpo site in Bucharest to provide refugees with a safe space to discuss specific protection issues, receive information and be referred to specialized services. At RomExpo, UNHCR, governmental institutions and partners are offering support to approximately 350 refugees from Ukraine per day concerning cash enrolment, the issuance of temporary protection status as well as providing health assistance and orientation for education and job opportunities.
- IOM and UNHCR continue to jointly facilitate fast-track transfers of refugees from Palanca border crossing point with Ukraine, in Moldova, to Huși, Romania where they are assisted by authorities and partners to continue their journey within the country. As of 23 August, 12,346 refugees from Ukraine had been transported to Romania through this mechanism.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The lack of data on refugees' residence locations remains a significant challenge for partners in the RRP, particularly for outreach and targeting of programmes.
- RRP partners have been reporting challenges for refugees in accessing health care due to language barriers and technical difficulties to register with a family doctor.



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

### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR and UNICEF are co-leading the Accountability to Affected Populations/Communication with Communities (AAP/CwC) task force. The task force facilitated discussions on mapping communication needs, establishing feedback and complaint mechanisms and referral systems.

- UNHCR Romania Telegram channel has been launched and is steadily growing in terms of followers. Stakeholders and partners have been invited to share the channel's link and QR code amongst their beneficiaries as well as to join in providing messages of interest to the beneficiaries.
- A self-service feedback and complaint form was launched and piloted by the UNHCR Field Offices to allow direct two-way communication between refugees and UNHCR. While initial responses are few, UNHCR and partners are working on tailoring and upgrading it to better fit the purpose. A dedicated self-service feedback and complaint form has also been developed for the RomExpo Hub and will be launched in September.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Messaging to and the development of appropriate communication channels to better reach older people and people with disabilities is paramount. Coordination with organizations working for People with Special Need (PwSN) will be enhanced to cover this identified need.



### CHILD PROTECTION (CP)

#### Achievements and Impact

- Since the beginning of the humanitarian crisis, 4,218 unaccompanied children have been registered by the General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection. Currently, 963 unaccompanied children remain in Romania together with a relative or a caregiver.
- There are 210 Ukrainian children in the protection system. The counties where larger groups of children are accommodated are Prahova, Iași, Brașov and Bucharest (Sector 4).
- As part of the national management information system for the rapid identification and documentation of all children arriving from Ukraine, with a focus on unaccompanied and separated children UASC, the Primero database was introduced in Romania, with support by UNICEF. Over 4,000 children were registered and referred to relevant authorities for adequate case management since the launch of Primero by a national network of over 300 social workers and psychologists.
- Save the Children assisted more than 6,500 Ukrainian children with food, non-food items (NFIs), counselling, and Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) in Bucharest, Suceava, Iasi, Galati, Tulcea, Maramures, and Timis counties. Child protection activities were run through counselling hubs in Bucharest, Iasi, Galati, and Suceava, a mobile team for Tulcea, mother and baby spaces set up in border and transit locations (Bucharest, Tulcea, and Maramures counties) and within the Regional Procedure and Accommodation Centres for asylum seekers in Bucharest, Galați, Suceava, Maramureș, and Timișoara.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is a continued need for the provision of psychosocial support services and Ukrainian/Russian-speaking psychologists and specialists.
- There is a need to improve and formalize SoPs for the referral of identified child protection cases to specialised service providers.
- As part of the winter preparations some Blue Dots based in tents could benefit from replacement with containers, heating, and enhancing access for people with disabilities.



## **GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)**

### **Achievements and Impact**

- The GBV pocket guide was widely disseminated through UNHCR offices and in all relevant training sessions.
- UNHCR and its partner, Sensiblu, conducted 3 training sessions on international protection, GBV, and PSEA for 53 government officials (border police and municipality officials) and 3 partner staff in Baia Mare and in Satu Mare near the border with Ukraine. Additionally, they conducted two awareness-raising sessions for 29 refugees residing in Baia Mare and Satu Mare regarding GBV and presented the rights of refugees to be protected from acts of SEA and the appropriate reporting channels in case of suspicions or incidents of SEA. Additionally, the refugees have been informed about the availability of services for victims of SEA and GBV and how to reach them.
- UNICEF and its implementing partners continue strengthening the national system's capacity to prevent, identify and manage sexual violence cases, focusing on 10 counties (out of 40) currently hosting refugees. Support provided includes setting national standards in science-based investigations of sexual abuse against children, a training the trainers' programme and consolidating the national professional network.

### **Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**

- There is a need to further work on the mainstreaming of 'prevention and response to GBV' within all the sectors and activities of the RRP partners, with support of the inter-sector team and to raise awareness on GBV and available GBV services to refugees.



## **PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (PSEA)**

### **Achievements and Impact**

- The PSEA network is enhancing its efforts to enhance PSEA awareness and systems across the RRP partners. The PSEA Network organized a Training of Trainers (ToT), co-facilitated by UNHCR and UNICEF, for its 25 current and potential future members from national/international NGOs and UN partners.
- New implementing partners of UNICEF benefitted from both ToT sessions for PSEA focal points and one-on-one consultations with a specialized consultant to implement and adjust their organizational PSEA frameworks. Approximately 20 non-government partners were reached through the support and all future partners will benefit from the same level of assistance and guidance.
- UNHCR on behalf of the PSEA Network trained eight Reach staff on PSEA and Reach will continue the efforts by its own resources to ensure that all its staff receive adequate training. Additionally, in the context of two integrated protection training, UNHCR trained 22 cash enrolment staff on PSEA and distributed the GBV pocket guide.
- To support the PSEA Network, IOM disseminated awareness materials on PSEA through social media postings.
- To improve linkages with the Government Working Groups, the Network has been invited to appoint a member to participate in the PSEA and Anti-Trafficking Committee that will be established shortly, by the decision of the Prime Minister, as per the National Action Plan.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Data and Reporting on progress against the PSEA indicators in the RRP remains an issue with an underestimate of the number of people trained.



#### TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (TIP)

### Achievements and Impact

- The Crisis Response Anti Trafficking Task Force (CRATTF) continued to meet throughout the month of August and focused on gathering information on trends and challenges relating to trafficking in persons. As a result, the CRATTF work plan was finalized.
- People to People and IOM delivered anti-trafficking capacity-building training, including on safe and ethical referrals to 70 social workers.
- Eliberare and partners continued to expand and implement the Anti Trafficking Support model in different areas around Romania; creating safety plans and raising awareness through information sessions for 1,647 people.
- Social media awareness relating to IOM and liberatED Romania's safer employment guide, aiming to reduce risks of labour trafficking, reached over 38,000 people.
- Other protection information disseminated by IOM and partners in August, aiming to empower people with knowledge about their rights and reduce the risks of trafficking reached 108,146 people.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Based upon the information gathered, the vetting system for accommodation being provided to refugees should be strengthened and there is a need for specialized accommodation centres for unaccompanied children (UAC) who are victims of trafficking.
- Enhanced monitoring and support for UACs placed within foster families should be developed – in coordination with the child protection working sub-working group.



#### EDUCATION SECTOR

### Achievements and Impact

- Safe and Inclusive Education for Refugee Children and Adolescents in Romania project supported 1,379 refugee children with quality education in 16 Temporary Learning Centres (TLCs) and Non-Formal Education (NFE) centres. 56 Ukrainian teachers were trained on MHPSS and Social and Emotional Learning (SEL). They were assisted with extra-curricular activities including the summer camp (225) and daily recreational trips/activities (609). The plan also supports the Ukrainian teacher's platform with 37 teachers attending the capacity-building initiative. 375 learners were assisted with tablets and Ukrainian curriculum content to access online learning while 500 adolescent girls received menstrual health and hygiene kits.
- 2,577 Ukrainian children, out of which 991 pre-schoolers had been enrolled in Romanian schools by the end of the school year 2021-2022. The back-to-school campaign intensified in August, and focused on three key directions:



- Support to Ministry of Education (MoE) and parents to continue to enrol children into formal Romanian education;
- Support children and parents who choose to pursue Ukrainian online learning;
- Support partners in creating Ukrainian hubs/schools to facilitate children's access to education.
- Supplies for 32,000 children (bags, school in a box, printed materials) are being distributed to children via various initiatives, with over 3,000 children already reached to date.
- The Education desk opened at RomExpo – a collaboration between the Ministry of Education, the World Bank and the School Inspectorate on 22 August. Since then, 65 counselling sessions were held with parents and 34 children were enrolled in schools.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Lack of Information to Ukrainian parents and children on accessing the Romanian education system and limited knowledge by refugees of available options remains a concern. Local differences between official guidelines and actual school capacity require an alert and reporting system.
- Romanian refugees continue to face specific language challenges that require specific programmes to be upscaled.
- The ongoing mobility of refugees from Ukraine in 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. Therefore, there is an urgent need to simplify the enrolment procedure.



## HEALTH SECTOR

### Achievements and Impact

- At the clinic in RomExpo, 446 patients received primary health services, reproductive and sexual health services, psychological counselling and emotional support for children and adults by a medical team composed of 18 permanent specialists, supported by the WHO.
- IOM assisted 439 Ukrainians with health assistance including medical evaluations, recommendations, prescriptions for medication, referrals to specialists for further investigations, registration into the national health system in August.
- 2,813 children and women received primary health care services through implementing partners supported by UNICEF.
- 385 refugees were reached by hygiene and WASH supplies. UNICEF continues to procure equipment to support immunization and equipment for essential health services.
- Health information materials was made available to teams in the field and electronically via the website: <https://who.canto.global/b/RJ3DJ> and on social media channels.
- Promotion of Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) through UNICEF direct support to 6 service delivery points that provide IYCF counselling is functional.
- UNICEF ran a health facilities field assessment with CUAMM to develop a plan to strengthen the capacity in two northern counties bordering Ukraine (Botosani and Suceava) to deliver emergency health services.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- A health needs assessment is being explored, with the support of the regional offices, and with Information Management Working Group colleagues regarding the inclusion of health questions in existing assessment tools

- The need for clarity regarding reimbursement of prescriptions for refugees made by family doctors and reimbursement for the health services from the National Health Insurance Health (NHIH) and Ministry of Health (MoH).
- There are reported ongoing difficulties registering Ukrainian nationals with family doctors and identifying places for children from Ukraine to receive vaccination, especially in Bucharest.
- There is a need to consider a COVID-19 and flu vaccination campaign for refugees ahead of winter.
- Ongoing need for interpretation and overcoming language barriers.
- Additional support is needed for people with disabilities and chronic diseases.



### **MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)**

#### **Achievements and Impact**

- Ongoing service provision to the clinic in RomExpo continues to offer Ukrainian refugees psychological counselling and emotional support.
- World Vision is advancing mental health projects by providing cash to children with mental and physical disabilities.
- UNICEF has supported 1,949 children [and caregivers] accessing MHPSS.

#### **Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**

- A mental health needs assessment is to be undertaken to better understand mental health needs among Ukrainian refugees arriving and staying in Romania.
- There is need for the establish a referral mechanism for children diagnosed with ADHD and Autism to mental health specialized services and access to education.
- The mental Health Working group will work towards developing standards, capacities and methodologies of actors working in the area of MHPSS as well as establishing a proper referrals system.
- At the subnational level, there is a limited capacity for providing MHPSS services for both refugee and host community children.



### **BASIC NEEDS SECTOR – SHELTER, NON-FOOD ITEMS, WASH, FOOD SECURITY**

#### **Achievements and Impact**

- IOM distributed 563 NFIs and 4,025 bottles of water and provided accommodation to 392 people through the Airbnb agreement.
- Good Neighbours provided shelter support to 245 people.
- World Vision provided 307 households with hygiene items comprised of soap, wipes, diapers, pampers, toothpaste, body lotion, cleaning products, toothbrushes, baby soap, as well as female hygiene kits.
- World Vision provided 5,500 refugees with 43 Metric Tons of various food items, such as canned meat, beans, peas, fish, sugar, flour, dry beans, corn flour, tomato sauce, oats, vegetable oil, pasta, and rice.
- UNICEF WASH visited 15 sites to strengthen the water, sanitation and hygiene response in Suceava and Botosani counties.
- UNHCR continues supporting the free supermarket for refugees by the Municipality of Bucharest, where over 1,000 refugees per day collect food and NFIs.



### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The Basic Needs Working group will be working towards a “winterization action plan” mapping winterization interventions and unmet needs of the basic needs partners in terms of food, non-food items and core relief items support as planned during the comings months, including at the Blue Dots
- There is a need to support long-term accommodation for the people living in collective shelters, as many of them are closing.
- As Good Neighbours and Fight for Freedom are planning to evacuate orphanages from Ukraine, there is a need for increased availability of shelters for long-term stay, including for refugee children.



### CASH-BASED ASSISTANCE

#### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR continues to support refugees with cash assistance in Romania. So far, over 14,800 refugees from Ukraine received cash assistance through the programme. The large majority of those receiving cash are women and children. The cash assistance enrolment centre in RomExpo, Bucharest is fully operational, as well as enrolment centres in Brasov, Iasi, Suceava and Galati. In August, UNHCR also established mobile teams reaching refugees in other areas of the country.
- UNHCR, Romanian Red Cross (RRC) and Oxfam are jointly working on designing and conducting a rapid market assessment for cash for winterization:
- A data sharing agreement was developed and now pending signature by participating agencies in the Cash Working Group. The data-sharing agreement will help in identifying refugees that may be enrolled in cash-based initiatives of multiple service providers and detect duplications. To that end, one initial orientation on the UNHCR de-duplication tool was conducted and UNHCR plans for more hands-on practice sessions in the coming weeks.



### LIVELIHOODS AND INCLUSION

#### Achievements and Impact

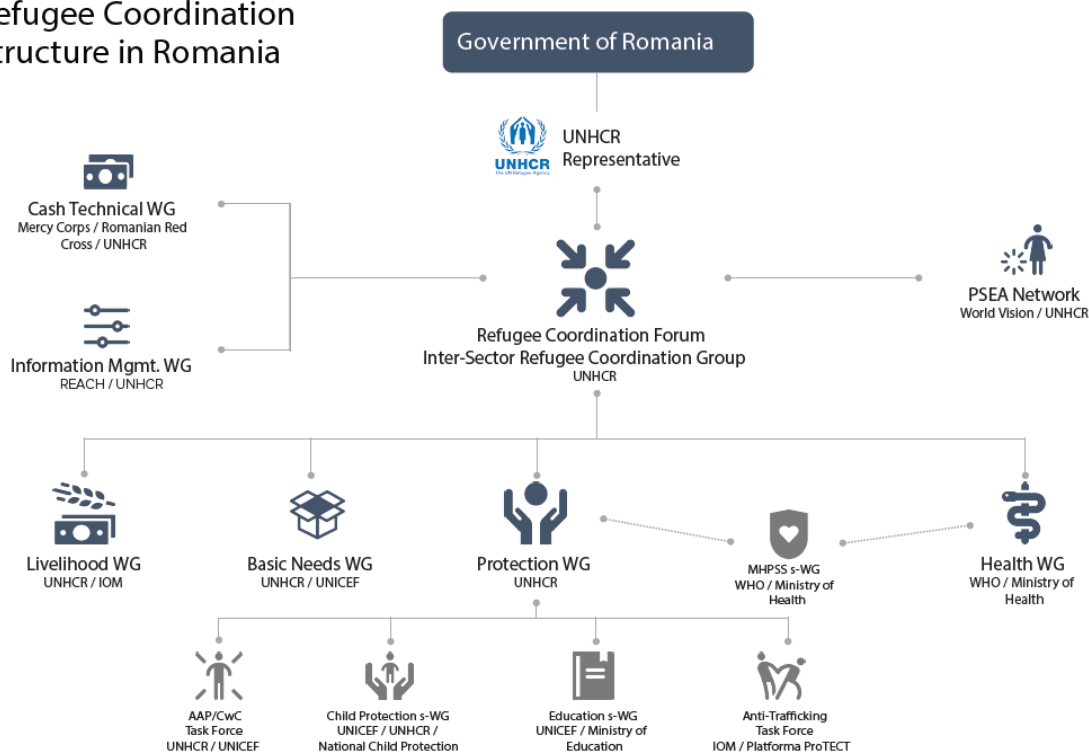
- According to the Minister of Labour, the number of Ukrainian nationals with employment contracts in Romania reached a total of 6,431 for the entire year. Over 4,300 of them have signed work contracts with employers through registration with the national employment agency in Romania from the start of the conflict in February. Through great efforts, especially by the private sector which has actively amended policies in support of Temporary Protection permit holders, employment opportunities available to TP permit holders continue to grow. This however still leaves the vast majority of those available to the labour market un- or informally employed.
- 5,167 Ukrainians have been registered in the Jobs4Ukraine database as of 26 August. A total of 2,480 jobs have been posted and 1,845 employers are using the site. The database has a range of jobs that do not require Romanian or English, which will promote the self-reliance of particularly vulnerable households.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There remain significant barriers for most TP permit holders hindering them from earning formal employment. Child and dependent care services are critically necessary to allow many job seekers the mobility to find, earn and maintain employment. Functional vocational Romanian language skills or the presence of a Ukrainian-speaking mentor/supervisor are also necessary for a vast majority of TP holders to earn formal employment.
- An interpreter is necessary to assist job seekers with registration at the AJOFM/ANOFM government employment assistance centres as Ukrainian translators are not commonly available in their offices. Navigating the path from their accommodation to employment centres with limited or no Romanian language skills also adds to the challenge of registration.

## Working in partnership

### Refugee Coordination Structure in Romania



ACF- ACTION CONTRE LA FAIM | ACT ALLIANCE / CHRISTIAN AID | ACTION AID | ALLIANCE FOR ACTION AID | CARE INTERNATIONAL | CARE UK | CESVI - ROMANIA | CATHOLIC AGENCY FOR OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT | DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL | FONSS - FEDERATION OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR SOCIAL SERVICES | HOPE AND HOMES FOR CHILDREN | JRS - JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE | MERCY CORPS | NATIONAL YOUTH FOUNDATION | NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL | OXFAM GB | PLAN INTERNATIONAL | PROJECT HOPE | SAVE THE CHILDREN | SOLIDAR SUISSE | TERRE DES HOMMES | UNESCO | IOM | UNFPA | UNHCR | UNICEF | WHO | WFP | WORLD VISION INTERNATIONAL | WORLD VISION UK

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#### LINKS

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

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