



Romania

April 2023

Since the escalation of the international armed conflict in Ukraine on 24 February 2022, more than 8.1 million people have fled their homes to seek safety, protection and assistance across Europe. Over 3.2 million people have crossed the border to Romania and were supported by the Government, civil society, private sector actors, international organizations and volunteer's hospitality and generosity.

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 2023 Romania RRP is aligned with the Government National Plan of Measures (NPM) for the protection and inclusion of refugees from Ukraine.

UNHCR is leading the Inter-Agency platform comprised of 34 appealing partners implementing humanitarian activities for the refugees from Ukraine. The Government 50/20 programme ended and the new Government Decision established conditions and mechanism for providing assistance to the refugees from Ukraine granted temporary protection in Romania will be implemented from 1 May.

KEY FIGURES* (as of end April)

8.1 M

Individual refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe

3.2 M

Border crossing into Romania

97 K

Refugees from Ukraine remaining in Romania

130 K

Refugees who obtained temporary protection in Romania

59%

Of refugees who obtained temporary protection are women and girls

2023 REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN (RRP) FOR THE UKRAINE SITUATION**

USD 1.69 B

Overall financial requirements

USD 153.6 M

Financial requirements for the Romania response***

34

Appealing partners involved in the Romania RRP

*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 2023](#) for a breakdown of sectoral response priorities. ***See the [Romania Chapter of Ukraine Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan 2023](#).

Operational context

Operational context

Since 24 February 2022, more than 8.1 million people from Ukraine have sought refuge across Europe. As of 30 April 2023, more than 3.2 million border crossings from Ukraine and Moldova into Romania have been recorded by border police, with some 97,592 people choosing to remain in the country. Around 130,387 Ukrainian (129,132) and Third Country Nationals (TCNs- 1,255) have obtained temporary protection, which enables access to healthcare, education, and the labour market. The number of refugees from Ukraine present in Romania has been decreasing, from its peak of 113,009 in February, to 97,592 (as of end April). This decrease was anticipated as many refugees who arrived during winter months expressed an intention to return in spring.

On 5 April, UNHCR and the Municipality of Brasov, organized a workshop on enhancing targeted responses to refugees with vulnerabilities. The workshop -which took place at the CATTIA Centre- brought together 36 participants from 17 organisations working on social affairs from the municipality, UN agencies, NGOs and civil society organizations from all over Romania. During the workshop, participants identified common vulnerability criteria to better target humanitarian assistance and explored options to develop an inter-agency score-card which will be a useful vulnerability determination tool for humanitarian actors and authorities while implementing specific activities targeting people with vulnerability. The inter-agency score-card will also help the overall programme related to cash assistance delivered to refugees from Ukraine.

On 26 April, a new [Government Decision](#) established conditions and mechanism for providing assistance to the refugees from Ukraine granted Temporary Protection (TP) in Romania. Through this programme, from 1 May 2023 Romanian authorities will provide each refugee family with 2,000 RON and refugee individual with 750 RON per month to cover accommodation expenses. In addition, each refugee will receive 600 RON per month to cover food expenses. In the first month, the assistance will be granted without any condition other than having TP in Romanian. However, for subsequent three months it will be subject to registration for employment through the national employment agency (ANOFM) and enrolment of children in any of a variety of schools or educational programs. From the fifth month until the end of 2023, refugees will be eligible to receive funds for accommodation expenses only if they are employed and the children are enrolled into schools. Elderly people (above 65 years), persons with disability, care givers for children (below two years), and care givers for children with disability (below three years) have been excepted from employment and/or school enrolment requirements. Some sector working groups under the RRP namely CASH, Protection, Livelihood and Socio-Economic Inclusion and Basic Needs held consultations among the respective members and planned activities to support refugees from Ukraine during the transitional period. Key identified priorities in the response include: i) provision of information desks in main hubs and cities hosting refugees; ii) increased support for refugees with specific needs to ensure access to assistance; iii) enhanced engagement with municipalities to ensure access to information and benefits for refugees; iv) enhanced counselling and support through hotlines for refugees seeking assistance in Romania.

Spotlight on: PATRIR's Ukraine House Community Centres support Culture Inclusion and Social Cohesion

The Peace Action, Training and Research Institute of Romania (PATRIR) was founded in 2001 as a non-governmental, non-profit, politically independent organization in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. PATRIR is committed to a world in which conflicts are transformed constructively, through peaceful means – in which individuals, communities, countries and local, national, regional, and international organisations and actors are empowered to work together to address conflicts effectively.

Under the Regional Response Plan, PATRIR supported by UNHCR created and established two community centres in 2022, Ukraine House Cluj and Ukraine House Sighisoara. These centres provide a space for refugees from Ukraine to access protection services and engage in activities focused on social cohesion, cultural and economic integration. In 2023, the Ukraine House Team in collaboration with local service providers began to focus on activities that support cultural integration and social cohesion.

Ukraine House Sighisoara in collaboration with Perspective from Danes, organized a Valentine's Day event for Ukrainian and Romanian youth. Twelve Ukrainian and ten Romanian youth engaged in social games and

danced. The feedback from the youth was very positive with the teenagers responding well to becoming acquainted to each other and friendships being formed. This event has led to other cultural integration events for youth in Sighisoara through the Ukraine House and in collaboration with diverse local NGOs.

Ukraine House Cluj marked the one year of the international armed conflict in Ukraine on 24. As a symbolic gesture of solidarity, unity, and appreciation, Ukraine House Cluj gathered people from the Ukrainian community in Cluj, NGO representatives, Romanians and others who showed their support during this hard year. The Ukrainian community commemorated through songs, speeches, and the lighting of candles. They wrote and signed a letter to Romania thanking them for their support and expressing the true meaning of brotherhood.

On 8 March, the Ukrainian community marked the beginning of spring by celebrating Women’s Day and appreciating the continuous support of the host community by giving flowers to Romanian, Hungarian and Roma women in Ukraine House Cluj.

Quiz Night is a continuous cultural inclusion event hosted by Ukraine House Cluj, where mixed teams formed by both Ukrainians, Romanians and foreigners in Cluj join in a competitive game testing their knowledge of Ukrainian and Romanian culture. The winners receive tickets to the National Theatre.

More people both Ukrainians and Romanians are expressing interest to engage in a variety of activities and events which will ease refugees’ access to opportunities and services in the local community.



Valentine’s Day Youth Event with Ukrainians, Romanians, and Roma Youth, Ukraine House Sighisoara, 14 February 2023, ©Shnarova Yuliia

Marking of one year of international armed conflict in Ukraine, Piata Unirii, Cluj-Napoca, 24 February 2023 Organized by Ukraine House Cluj, ©Lucian Stirb



Protection

Achievements and Impact

- As in the previous months, Protection partners continued to focus on the provision of information and on awareness-raising activities at the borders, in urban centres, and through helplines. The Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR) provided protection support, advice, referrals, and information to nearly 4,300 refugees from Ukraine. CNRR also provided information and counselling remotely through their helplines to 683 refugees. UNHCR continued to run its helpline (calls, WhatsApp, and Telegram) and received over 800 calls and messages during the reporting period.
- Tdh continued its work in Bucharest, Brasov and Constanta (via its partnership with the Civic Resource Centre) on information provision, referrals, individual protection assistance (IPA), MHPSS and educational activities for both children and adults. Overall, the intervention supported 223 adults in all three cities (24 in Bucharest, 152 in Constanta, and 9 in Brasov). In Bucharest, adults have been supported through groups MHPSS, information, translation (e.g., during doctor's appointments), and Psychological First Aid (in the transit centre). In Brasov, Tdh team concentrated their efforts on individual MHPSS sessions for adults and managing IPA cases (through accompaniment to services, and information). Tdh team also conducted field visits in the villages near Brasov. Likewise, in Constanta, Tdh partner organization continued its work in operating IPA cases, facilitating group MHPSS sessions and language courses for adults (English).
- The Migrant Integration Center (MIC) Brasov, supported by Solidar Suisse and Danish Refugee Council continued the protection monitoring and individual protection assistance, information dissemination, protection by presence. The MIC assisted 157 refugees through direct assistance in the medical field, cash assistance and information and counselling on issues such as temporary protection, legal, education, medical system, work, accommodation, transport, bank accounts. Its mobile team continued to work in communities outside of Brasov with targeted protection assistance.
- CNRR continued to assist refugees with interpretation and translation services during medical visits and during visits with banks, local service providers, such as the county school inspectorates, the county employment agencies, and the directorates for social assistance and child protection.
- Salvati Copiii aided refugees (10,250 children and 7,170 adults) through the provision of interpretation and translation, key protection messages, social counselling and accompanying for accessing different services (banks, medical services, school enrolment).
- To gather opinions from the Ukrainian community about the announced changes to the 50/20 program, CNRR organized three community consultations with over 100 refugees residing in Iași, Suceava, and Galați. CNRR also provided additional information on access to the banking services, the available employment opportunities, the proof residence issued by the GII, and on the school enrolment process.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The end of the 50/20 program and the delays with the disbursement of housing costs for January-March 2023 to Romanian hosts, as well as the uncertainties around the conditionalities in the new housing and integration support program, continued to lead to reported evictions of refugees from their accommodation. During April, protection partners have continued to prioritize information provision and counselling to support the dissemination of information on the new programme as it has become available and helped to address the needs of evicted refugees.



Child Protection

Achievements and Impact

- Data from the National Authority for the Protection of Child Rights and Adoption (NAPCRA) shows that from 25 July 2022 to 27 April 2023, the local child protection authorities (DGASPCs), under the coordination of NAPCRA, have registered 25,373 children in Primero. As of 24 April, 5,835 UASC children have been identified and registered by NAPCRA and the Border Police. Disaggregated data is only available for 5,220 children: 2,202 staying in Romania and 3,018 leaving Romania (transit). NAPCRA is currently supervising 173 children from the Ukrainian childcare system and 41 UASC.
- To inform refugee adults and children arriving in Romania, Salvati Copiii (SC) maintained presence at border crossings points with Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova providing information, basic counselling and NFIs for refugees. Refugee from Ukraine are assisted at SC Counselling and Integrated Services Centres in Bucharest, Galati, Iasi, Baia Mare, Tulcea, Suceava, Timisoara, Tg. Mures by teams of social workers, cultural mediators, psychologists, educational facilitators and MHPSS workers, legal counsellors.
- The provision of key child protection interventions remains a primary focus for many child protection partners in Romania. In April, Tdh continued its work in Bucharest, Brasov and Constanta, through the provision of MHPSS sessions, educational activities and individual protection assistance (IPA) and has supported 731 children in all three cities (234 in Bucharest, 405 in Constanta, and 92 in Brasov). In Bucharest, Galati, Iasi, Maramures, Suceava and Tulcea, SC provided case management to 324 refugees and 134 teachers were trained in PFA, CPIE and safeguarding in Suceava and Iasi.
- In Bucharest, Tdh's mobile teams carried out activities in six permanent and semi-permanent centres and schools. Cooking classes that have an integrated MHPSS component were organized for a group of unaccompanied and separated teens. Tdh also organized sexual education sessions for parents. The Resilience Innovation Facilities (RIFs) in Bucharest continued their activities with 19 children and provided children with an opportunity to explore 3D printing, vinyl cutters and other tools, combined with a MHPSS component. Tdh managed to complete the first module of the RIF with 2 groups (introduction to 3D printing) with a focus on the second pillar of the MHPSS framework – feeling connected.
- Also in Bucharest, Four Change Association started a new project in partnership with UNICEF, local authorities and Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest (UTCB), aimed at developed child friendly spaces and to provide complex assistance to 300 Ukrainian children, adolescents and families from the UTCB (Tei) refugee centre.
- In Constanta, Tdh's partner organization Civic Resource Center (CRC) continued its work on IPA for both children and adults. They also facilitated individual and group MHPSS sessions, which includes a developmental club, club for teens, physical therapy, peer to peer support, handcraft for children and their families and a women's support group as well as Romanian & English language courses. CRC started to hold sewing classes activities as a means for adolescents and adults to build life-skills.
- Services continued to be provided through UNICEF supported projects implemented by ASSOC, ANAIS Association, Youth for Youth Foundation, Jesuit Refugee Service, PATRIR, Independent Midwives Association, CREIS, Victims of Sexual Crimes Association: 535 children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support in Brasov, Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Constanta, Galati, Iasi (241 Girls, 209 Boys) and 520 women, girls and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions in Baia Mare, Botosani, Brasov, Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Iasi, Piatra-Neamt, Suceava, Vaslui, Tulcea, (99 Girls, 53 Boys). ASSOC continued to provide medical and social services to refugees

from Ukraine in different locations. Spaces and programmes for day-care centres for children and adolescents are currently prepared for five locations.

- SC organized a special event that included a "Living Library" event at the Central Library in Suceava with the participation of readers (students of a college in Suceava as well as university students) and books for refugee children and adults, with a focus on the sharing of stories and journeys since arriving in Romania.
- Tdh organized a roundtable discussion on UASC with the local and national child protection authorities, NGOs and UN agencies to help build and maintain a continuous dialogue with the child protection authorities and stakeholders on the matter of UASC from Ukraine residing in Romania. Conversations focused on gaps and challenges and the sharing of some best practices identified in different locations around the country.
- World Vision supported more than 150 refugees through its second community-based event, Easter Fair. Children had fun painting bags, learned how to make Slime, and played games facilitated by an animator while parents had time to relax and socialize, admiring the Easter decorations created by children. The organization also organized inclusive events for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Iasi and Bucharest. Down Syndrome Day was celebrated in Iasi and in Bucharest an integrated approach was provided by the Centre for Inclusive Education No.1 within the Pilot Centre for Curative Pedagogy and Social Therapy, here parents attended a Parenting Workshop aimed to provide beneficiaries an understanding of their children limits and how to stimulate them while Romanian and Ukrainian Children with SEND were involved in melo-therapy and occupational therapy sessions.
- In Ocnele Mari (Valcea area), World Vision provided 60 vulnerable school children from disadvantaged families or families with more school age children with laptops after a cyberbullying workshop. The laptops are meant to support online schooling of Ukrainian children and ensure connection with family members and friends.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In the monthly Child Protection Sub-WG, partners discussed the limited information available on children with disabilities and have requested more desegregated data from NAPCRA on children identified with disabilities through the PRIMERO registration exercise.



Gender-Based Violence

Achievements and Impact

- UNICEF partnered with Bucharest based women's rights organization ANAIS to provide information, legal counselling, psychological support services for women and adolescents who had experienced or are at risk of gender-based violence. In April, ANAIS offered GBV information services to over 100 participants and launched a trilingual (Romanian-Ukrainian- Russian) information guide titled "Sexual and Gender Based Violence: A Life Free of Violence is the Right of Every Person." The information guide is an easy to use, adolescent friendly tool which will be distributed at UNICEF supported sites and will also be available online.
- Sensiblu Foundation, under UNHCR partnership, has conducted a 2-day training on concepts regarding GBV and domestic violence for 11 participants from Galati Social Assistance Directorate and from the Galati County Police Inspectorate. On awareness raising sessions for community, Sensiblu has conducted 30 group activities which were attended by a total of 411 individuals in Bucharest, Suceava, Cluj and Galati. 13 individual counselling for psychological and legal matters were provided.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Through the awareness sessions at the police, it has been highlighted the need of reinforcing concepts of GBV and domestic violence among the specialist in front line response.
- In a group activity conducted in Radauti Camp, women participants underscored their need and willingness to have sessions where they are “heard and seen”. The majority were under social protection in Ukraine and facing financial difficulties to sustain their families. Social stigma on receiving aid is prevalent and in time, also mentioned by volunteer workers.
- The uncertainty of 50/20 program has been a major concern among communities. Many fears of eviction due to the termination of the program and misinformation and speculations are amid confusion.



Education

Achievements and Impact

- As of 21 April 2023, 5,284 Ukrainian refugee children were officially enrolled in the national education system, (79 per cent as audients): 2,001 at pre-primary level, 1,749 at primary level, and 1,534 at secondary level. Enrolments have hence continuously increased over the past few months due to various reasons including the situation of power shortage in Ukraine, which makes it difficult for children to follow classes offered through the Ukrainian online learning platform, and news concerning the reform of the social protection scheme ('50/20 programme') foreseeing the introduction of a conditionality linked to school enrolment.
- Support continues to be provided with a view to ensure that all Ukrainian refugee children can access quality education services, through diversified learning pathways including or combining inclusion into Romanian schools, online learning, special classes and after-school activities offering learning support ('learning hubs') facilitated by Ukrainian-speaking educators or operating in a third language (e.g. English), and facilitating increasingly access to Romanian language classes to prepare integration in Romanian schools. RRP partners continue to promote access primarily to classroom-type education modalities that encourage face-to-face learning and personal interactions, as well as to language courses in Romanian, MHPSS and recreational activities to support their integration, and to facilitate access to online learning when necessary.
- Coordination in the education sector is key, both at national and decentralized levels, to extend the provision of educational services and ensure that refugee children can progressively transition to the Romanian education system. UNICEF pursues the coordination role in partnership with other sister agencies (IOM, World Bank, UNHCR), the Government of Romania, as well as NGOs supporting the delivery of educational services. In April, advocacy interventions and technical assistance were largely geared towards informing the Government's upcoming reform of the 50/20 programme, and the education dimension thereof in particular.
- In April, UNICEF formalized its collaboration through MoUs concluded with an additional six County School Inspectorates (Brasov, Maramures, Vaslui, Mures, Bihor and Satu Mare) to support their operations and response at decentralized level, including for registering enrolment requests and organizing children's progressive integration into formal education. UNICEF also distributed ECD kits and learning support materials for children, mainly in Maramures, Mures and Sibiu, as well as 567 laptops to support schools and learning hubs to install computer labs and facilitate access to online learning platforms when necessary.

- Plan International delivered a 3-day training on Integrated Child Protection and Education in Emergencies content to a mixed-background team of Ukrainian and Romanian volunteers, refugee shelter staff, and managers, as well as teachers of FDP and Pro veritas. The team has direct engagement with refugees from Ukraine, particularly children, in Galati. The training addressed issues pertaining to Child Protection and Child Safeguarding in emergencies, GBV and CP risks, Best Interest of the Child, safe referrals, MHPSS in emergencies and PFA, teachers' role and well-being, Social Emotional Learning, inclusive classrooms, positive discipline, classroom management, active and engaging instructions, and pedagogy. This training was made possible with the support of BEH II. In partnership with JRS, Plan International also established an Early Childhood Development Centre in Bucharest with support from the Japan Platform fund. The ECD centre provides critical early learning, MHPSS, and comprehensive care services to young refugee children and positive parenting sessions to their parents.
- In April, IOM Romania printed 1,170 Romanian language manuals and workbooks for adults and children who are attending language courses within IOM premises and across Romania. The manuals are distributed based on requests from County School Inspectorates. All materials are also available in electronic format: www.romaniaeacasa.ro. IOM continues to provide Romanian language courses for children and adults in several cities across Romania, including the capital city Bucharest, Brasov, Cluj-Napoca, Iasi, etc. The courses may also be organized online for beneficiaries that are living in remote areas or small cities. In April, 1,312 persons, adults, and children, have been attending Romanian language courses. IOM Romania is also supporting teachers in schools from Bucharest where Ukrainian children are enrolled with cultural mediators (interpreters). In coordination with the County School Inspectorate of Constanta, IOM Romania organized a 3-day training workshop on 21-23 April in Constanta. A total number of 28 Romanian teachers and educators attended the training. To date, 101 teachers and educators have participated in training sessions on teaching Romanian language as a foreign language with IOM support.
- Tdh has carried out Romanian classes in Bucharest (in Mihai Viteazul for children and in Tdh Resilience Innovation Facility – RIF -- for both children and adults). In Lacul Tei centre, Tdh continued facilitating afterschool activities (e.g., mathematics, geography, etc.) and initiated a needs assessment to inform future afterschool interventions. In Constanta, Tdh partner organization (CRC) continued with English and Romanian classes for children and youth. Overall, 128 individuals have benefited from language classes (23 adults and 105 children) and 42 children participated in RIF activities.
- Junior Achievement (JA) Romania continued implementing activities fostering entrepreneurial education and financial literacy skills, by JA staff in schools/hubs, by Ukrainian teachers in schools/hubs and by Romanian teachers working with Romanian students and Ukrainian audiences in Romanian public schools. More than 400 young Ukrainian beneficiaries have been reached in April, while an additional 29 Ukrainian teachers and educators from Brasov and Suceava were trained on JA's curriculum. Printed educational materials and digital resources (laptops, beginner-friendly online educational platforms) have also been provided.
- Romanian Angel Appeal initiated a series of 10 sessions IT workshop which has been benefiting 19 adolescents aged 13 to 21 years on software development methodologies. It also organized a creative writing workshop for 7 young persons, Leonardo da Vinci's inventions for 14 people and painting workshops for another 14 young people.
- More than 800 children based in Bucharest, Brasov, Constanta, Cluj, Iasi, Suceava, Valcea Area and Galati participated in World Vision's Education programme in April. Within 5 schools (4 in Constanta and 1 in Calimanesti), 2 County libraries (Constanta and Ramnicu Valcea), 4 Happy Bubbles (Bucharest, Constanta, Cluj and Iasi) and 4 Educational Centres (in Iasi, Bucharest, Brasov and Galati) run by local partners (FONSS, Carusel, JRS and Cattia Centre), children of all ages participated in daily activities that include educational support, non-formal education and recreational activities. Beneficiaries also received hot meals during the daily program. Children hence continue studying in a safe space ensuring a healthy routine and harmonious development. In 3 other schools in Bucharest, Ocnele Mari and Baile Olanesti, 450 pupils are enrolled in educational and child protection programs and 60 preschoolers in Brasov and Suceava are enrolled in early education programs, ensuring learning continuity in safe and stimulating spaces. In collaboration with the Centre for Inclusive Education No.1, World Vision invited Ukrainian

children with disabilities and their parents to the Pilot Centre for Curative Pedagogy and Social Therapy to participate in an inclusive activity integrating parenting sessions while Romanian and Ukrainian children with disability and special educational needs were involved in melo-therapy and occupational therapy sessions. In Ocnele Mari (Valcea area) 60 pupils from disadvantaged families received Laptops after a Cyberbullying workshop. The laptops are meant to support online schooling of Ukrainian children and ensure connection with family members and friends. Language and Digital lessons, Romanian and English, are also provided within Happy Bubbles on a weekly basis to ensure integration of Ukrainian children and their caregivers.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Some challenges and barriers have been reported by refugee youths in accessing tertiary and higher education in Romania, including with respect to enrolment process and associated costs. A mapping exercise has been initiated by the National Youth Foundation (Fundăția Națională pentru Tineret) with preliminary findings expected to be available in May 2023.
- As the academic year will be ending in a few months, both in Romania and Ukraine, bilateral discussions need to be facilitated and arrangements made for national examinations.
- There are increasing concerns on the actual capacity of the Romanian education system to absorb and meet the educational needs of all Ukrainian refugee children and adults. While alternative and complementary learning modalities (e.g. education hubs) have been established to reduce the burden on schools and help children transition progressively to Romanian schools over the past few months, RRP partners are now facing serious difficulties to secure funding for continuing their operations beyond the current school year, hence facing the risk of having to discontinue the provision of such services from September 2023 onwards, unless additional resources can be mobilized urgently in the next few months.
- Romanian language courses for both children and adults are critical to ensure social integration and smooth transitioning to the national education system. Their provision needs to be accelerated and sustained in coordination with County School Inspectorates – including through online modalities -.
- If mutual recognition of diplomas and studies between the Governments of Romania and Ukraine was adopted earlier this year for university level, similar provisions should be extended for under-university levels.



Health and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- Representatives from the Romanian MoH and WHO Romania attended a regional high-level consultation in Bratislava, Slovakia on "Lessons learned and best practice sharing between refugee-hosting countries in the context of the Ukraine crisis," organized by Slovakia Health Ministry in cooperation with WHO EURO. Participating refugee receiving countries shared their experiences, challenges, and lessons learned in their response to the Ukraine crisis. Most countries reported similar challenges as all faced a large-scale population displacement and shared their respective strategies and tools for addressing the resulting health needs. A summary report and conclusions will be available on request.
- The ongoing intersectoral collaboration between the Ministry of Health, UN agencies, and WHO continued to support language barriers faced by the refugees. The national information centre refugee call centre, set up in December 2022 as a result of this joint collaboration, has received approximately 300 calls within the past 30 days and continues to assist refugees with health care / health access issues.
- The results of the WHO's second behavioural insight study in Romania findings:

- Ukrainians have overall a high opinion of the healthcare system in Romania and predominantly positive patient experiences among refugees have been noted.
- Younger refugees have sufficient access to information when trying to receive healthcare in Romania, but this is not necessarily the case for elderly patients who are not necessarily social media literate.
- Ukrainian refugees are very interested in vaccination topics including how to access vaccination services.
- The Migrant Integration Center Brasov continued the protection monitoring and individual protection assistance by providing 229 targeted protection assistance services for medical appointments, translations, registrations with family doctors, accompany to medical institutions to 93 new and recurrent refugees who have requested MIC's assistance for medical issues.
- The Independent Midwives Association (IMA) facilitated 153 enrolments to family doctors and IMA translators provided 550 translations. IMA partners also provided over 200 sexual and reproductive health-related medical consultations, three prenatal & two family planning classes, one baby massage class, two SRH education classes for adolescents, psychological support for eight and group sessions for 17 persons, group & individual psychological support sessions for 23 people as well as Romanian classes for 15 teenagers and adults.
- Within the framework of the FCDO funded UNFPA project, the East European Institute for Reproductive Health (EEIRH) and local partners in Romania have continued providing individual and group services to 1,578 women and girls Ukrainian refugees in the WGSS in Baia Mare, Brasov, Bucharest and Targu-Mures. In total, 699 individual and group services were provided at the WGSSs, 189 individual psycho-social counseling sessions, 64 group activities, 269 referrals to other specialized services, 64 dignity kits distributed, 64 individual information sessions on PSEA, 20,441 persons reached with information, communication and education activities and/or materials about WGSS, SRH, GBV, and 981 persons reached with information about WGSS and who expressed interest to use its services.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Reaching the elderly with health communications has become a concern due to a growing portion of minors staying with grandparents. In addition to this, the elderly refugees have faced limited access to healthcare information compared to the general refugee population due to limited digital literacy, potentially impacting both themselves and minors under their care.
- There is reported anxiety among Ukrainian refugees regarding the availability of healthcare access in Romania in the long-term.
- Although substantial improvements to healthcare access have been made, there are still major barriers faced such as documentation, disability registration, maternal specialist care and language barriers. Notably, access to prescriptions has been highlighted as a particular problem in a recent study on behavioural insights among refugees.
- When mapping every facility, AMI noted access for antenatal care, contraception and abortion care is difficult to access in the public system and hence decided to offer these services via the private system.
- Family doctor enrolment is still a challenge and partners have to submit the same information for each patient to CASMB every time they need a medical service, and this increases the workload for family doctors and clinics considerably with some being unable to manage. Many doctors don't prescribe compensative prescriptions, meaning that refugees can't get medicines for free.



Basic Needs

Achievements and Impact

- In April, Habitat for Humanity Romania donated trolleys for 100 refugees from Arad, through Aradul Civic Association. New refugees (4 adults and 3 children) were accommodated in the 30 apartments rented by Habitat for Humanity in Bucharest. Maintenance work was carried out in 10 apartments. Sanitation works have been carried out (washing lime, renewing the floor, replacing used furniture) in the kitchen of the UTCB Home in Bucharest which was renovated by Habitat last year and over 600 refugees has been using it.
- The month of April remained particularly cold for the border areas, especially around the Danube, and UNICEF therefore completed a distribution of winter clothes for children, with 18,669 sets distributed since the beginning of 2023, for a global total of 23,569 sets distributed during winter. UNICEF continues to support accommodation centres in Bucharest and is working on the rehabilitation of TEI centre as well as Bucium centre in Iasi.
- UNHCR, in coordination with partners and local authorities, distributed in April more than 30,000 items, like clothes, hygiene kits, antiseptic wipes, blankets, bed linen, towels, pillows, and quilts to more than 2,000 families located in Bucharest, Baia Mare, Bistrita, Cluj, Constanta, Siguetu, Sighisoara, Targu Mures, Vaslui.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The overall monitoring of refugees' access to basic needs is ongoing in this critical phase during the transition from the 50/20 programme to the new governmental assistance programme that includes a new mechanism and a conditionality scheme. Partners from the Basic Needs and Cash Working Groups are in close coordination in order to align cash interventions and ensure complementarity with other assistance activities including the distribution of NFIS, as mentioned in the above paragraph. Regarding contingency access to water in case of establishment of new transition centers, UNICEF – as a provider of last resort – is cooperating with ISU to provide a two-phase response, with temporary latrines units ready to be installed within 72 hours while more concrete and long-lasting solutions would be produced. However, funding for the sector is close to nil.



Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion

Achievements and Impact

- HEKS EPER continues to provide various essential support services to refugee job seekers. This month, HEKS EPER facilitated three professional qualification courses (5-days each) for 30 refugee job seekers looking to work as manicurists, chef assistants, and cleaners. HEKS EPER also continues to provide Romanian language courses for refugee job seekers. So far, 98 individuals have graduated their language course (out of which 38 graduated this month), and 22 individuals are still enrolled. Through their implementing partner Open Fields, HEKS EPER is also offering a grant to refugees from Ukraine who are looking to start-up a business in Romania or relocate a business from Ukraine. On April 16th, HEKS EPER held a workshop with 16 refugees focused on how to prepare a business plan and apply for the start-up grant. So far, 21 grant applications have been received and two have been approved.
- Jobs4Ukraine continues to link refugee job seekers to employers through their online job platform. During April, 213 new job seekers have registered on their platform in Romania, making up a total of 1,183 job seekers registered so far in 2023. Moreover, this month, 462 job applications were sent through the platform and 96 matches were made between job seekers and employers in Romania. On 10 April, Jobs4Ukraine also held a CV-building workshop with 9 refugee job seekers in Brasov.

- UNHCR also met with the local employment authority (AJOFM) in Iasi, which assured coordination with UNHCR and partners to connect refugees with potential employers through various means. During the meeting, AJOFM Iasi informed that they had 50 refugees from Ukraine registered in their system, and that so far 25 of them had earned an employment. Most of them were hired in the hospitality sector.
- HIAS Economic Inclusion team continued to develop its employment facilitation programs, with a particular focus on job placement initiatives. Strategic alliances with companies in Romania were consolidated and strengthened, with the aim to generate new sources of employment for refugees from Ukraine. HIAS most recent private sector partners are Uber, Nova Poshta, Bisar, and McDonalds. Uber and HIAS have initiated a pilot employment facilitation project which provides Ukrainian beneficiaries interested in working as drivers with financial support to obtain the required licenses, permits and certificates. Candidates who meet all the requirements will also be provided with a car, so that they can start working immediately. In the initial call phase, 32 people have shown their interest in the project. HIAS has also initiated a collaboration project with Nova Poshta, a courier and postal services company, with the aim to facilitate the employment of 15-20 refugees. In the initial phase, 116 beneficiaries expressed interest in the project.
- To enhance the resilience of refugees, the Migrant Integration Center Brasov (MIC) has restarted the Romanian language courses for 100 beneficiaries. Two A1 levels, one A2 and 1 B1 levels are currently organized at MIC's headquarters in Brasov. Additional to these classes, refugees from Ukraine can also access the socio-cultural/educational activities together with other migrants and Romanian citizens organized by MIC's intercultural mediators.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There have been several reports of refugees from Ukraine encountering issues when attempting to register on Government websites such as National Employment Organization due to the language barrier.
- The World Bank carried out a research project analyzing different scenarios for increasing the employability of refugees from Ukraine and enhancing the financial sustainability of the modified 50/20 program. Through their study, the World Bank found that under the new financial support program, the refugee employment could increase from current 9% to 22% in 6 months and would allow to recover 63% of the program's costs through fiscal revenues from refugee employment. While the refugee motivation to work will likely increase with the new program, if they additionally received support with addressing the key barriers to employment they currently face - a) information on employment options, b) childcare aligned with working hours and c) Romanian language training - their employment rate could reach 32% in 6 months (recovering 75% of the program's costs). However, to achieve an employment rate closer to where countries like CZ or PL are already today (around 60% refugee working), further policy changes would be needed, including investments into programs which improve the quality of integration and in turn also further increase the fiscal revenues if refugees can use their full productive potential.

Cross-Cutting Priorities



Cash-Based Assistance

Achievements and Impact

- The Salvation Army continues to provide 100 Lei monthly voucher assistance per child for families with Temporary Protection status. The Salvation Army assisted over 6700 children with the vouchers.
- IOCC through Federatia Filantropia distributed 640 Profi grocery vouchers (600 Lei) for Ukrainian refugees.

- Word Vision registered 468 potential beneficiaries for Multipurpose Cash Assistance. The beneficiaries are expected to receive three instalments of 568 (Lei) per individual. The payments are released by months and for the period of three months.
- Save the Children Romania offered financial support in April, through the distribution of multipurpose vouchers worth 200 Lei per family member. 396 social vouchers were distributed to 136 families, 367 individuals, out of which 188 were children.
- The Migrant Integration Center in Brasov has continued the cash assistance program designed together with Banca Transilvania in Brasov to open bank accounts for refugees from Ukraine and transfer the cash assistance in the respective bank accounts at Banca Transilvania. The program restarted on 21 February 2023 and, in the month of April MIC has provided financial help for 208 households (711 persons in total). The program aims to support 2,500 persons.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The deduplication is happening only with small number of partners as the deduplication Data Sharing Agreement is not signed yet by partners that providing cash/voucher assistance. More trainings are needed for the organizations participating in the deduplication to further utilize UNHCR the deduplication Tool (RAIS).



Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

Achievements and Impact

- Efforts to build capacity of aid workers to make the sector safer continued. Terre des hommes Foundation trained four staff members in its child safeguarding policy. The Safeguarding Hub Eastern Europe has begun to plan the roll-out of its safeguarding essentials training package with two trainings being confirmed for the month of May. Participants include staff members of local, small-sized CSOs providing aid to refugees from Ukraine.
- Partners have also focused on PSEA and safeguarding system building and strengthening. Safeguarding Hub Eastern Europe has developed a comprehensive package to help local CSOs build knowledge on workplace investigations. To this end, several products were created such as the [How-to note: Survivor-centered safeguarding investigations](#), the animation [Safeguarding Investigations: five questions answered](#) and module four from the [Safeguarding Matters: Eastern Europe e-learning](#). To complete the learning package, a national webinar on the basics of safeguarding/PSEA investigations will be held on 7 June.
- In an effort to understand the knowledge and perceptions of the people displaced from Ukraine regarding PSEA, UNICEF Romania partnered with Asociatia Romana pentru Promovarea Sanatatii (ARPS) and carried out an online survey. A total of 107 responses were collected. The survey showed that:
 - Only three in five refugees from Ukraine said that they know extensively what behaviours fall in the categories of: sexual harassment, sexual abuse, and sexual exploitation (61.7%)
 - Only half of the Ukrainian refugees have heard about PSEA policy from humanitarian workers of local NGOs and of UN Agencies
 - 49 per cent of survey respondents know where to report a case of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, or sexual harassment.

Further dissemination of results is planned for May 2023 among interested CSOs and other governmental partners

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- UNHCR and partners are half-way through the implementation of PSEA capacity-strengthening plans based on a comprehensive assessment. Whilst partners are on track to meeting the core standards for PSEA, investigation capacity remains a key gap. Partner organisations, namely local NGOs, lack the internal capacity to develop investigation procedures and conduct investigations, and are in need of further capacity-building in this regard.
- The Safeguarding Hub Eastern Europe published the [Disability Inclusive Safeguarding - Regional Review \(Moldova, Poland and Romania\)](#) that set out to understand the safeguarding needs of organizations of people with disabilities (OPDs) and Ukrainian refugees with disabilities. The research found that OPDs across the three countries face similar challenges and barriers to implementing effective safeguarding systems and processes. In particular, these are due to limited understanding of safeguarding, capacity to respond, and lack of human resources.



Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

Achievements and Impact

- ACF and ParentIS provided MHPSS and Care Practice activities in Iasi, Romania. They supported 501 beneficiaries during April, with over 650 consultations and 160 referrals made to other service providers. 35 field responders were trained on translation guidelines, humanitarian principles, and self-care. The provision of psychosocial activities for children and adolescents has been expanded to include more trauma-focused interventions. ParentIS is setting up a cross-border collaboration mechanism with stakeholders from Moldova.
- Salvați Copiii/ Save the Children Romania has successfully reached out to over 2,500 beneficiaries, both children and adults in 8 Counselling centers (București, Galați, Iași, Suceava, Baia Mare, Timișoara, Târgu Mureș, Tulcea), 3 transit points (Romexpo, Gara de Nord, E-gros Iași) and 2 mobile camps (Rădăuți, Huși). 18 children and 57 adults benefitted from individual counselling sessions delivered by psychologists in the counselling centers in Bucharest, Iași, Suceava, Târgu Mureș and Timișoara. Notably, the MHPSS workers facilitated Easter-themed recreational activities, including egg hunts and arts and crafts workshops, as well as psychoeducational and community mobilization activities, involving over 1500 children. The Galați-based team organized cultural trips for 120 Ukrainian and Romanian families, while in Tulcea, the team established a choir of 13 Ukrainian and Romanian children, providing a platform for language exchange. In Baia Mare, facilitators conducted weekly dance and yoga classes for all ages, and in Suceava, they offered weekly sports-based group activities. Additionally, the psychologist from Iasi hosted weekly art-therapy sessions for children's emotional well-being and personal growth. Local teams from Iasi and Suceava also delivered PFA sessions for teachers. At a national level, 134 children participated in TeamUp sessions.
- Demands for receiving MHPSS services continue to rise. IOM facilitated access to mental health and psychosocial well-being for Ukrainians and third country nationals (TCNs) residing in several cities across Romania. The individual counseling was also available online for beneficiaries living in the areas with no access to this type of support. IOM provided psychosocially informed counseling to 304 Ukrainians and facilitated their access to specialized assistance. The activities also included individual counseling for 39 adults and 18 children, 9 group sessions for 52 persons, and non-formal activities and community engagement socio-relational activities for 246 persons.
- In Tirgu-Mures, Mures Hub assisted 196 Ukrainian refugees through approximately 180 MHPSS activities. In Cluj, the WHO Cultural mediator conducted emotional support groups for Ukrainian

women and adolescents, with a total of 21 beneficiaries. Individual MH support consultancy was provided to 7 people. In Galati the notable achievement during the reporting period under this sector is the collaboration of WHO & SensiBlu Galati in supporting refuge women & children from Ukraine in self-help groups for artistic expression. Groups meet biweekly in BlueDot Galati ; SensiBlu deals with organization & content, WHO provides MH support, counseling & follow-up. Meetings held in area of GoodNeighbors, who also provides support. A translator from SensiBlu supports patients referred by WHO to doctors when translation needed. WHO CMO also provides occasional translation.

- Tdh teams continued their efforts in all three locations Bucharest, Brasov, and Constanta for children and adults residing both in semi-permanent centers and those living in independent apartments. Tdh conducted 165 group and 26 individual MHPSS sessions, benefiting a total of 468 children and 123 adults. The Resilience Innovation Facilities in Bucharest and Brasov continued running, giving children the opportunity to explore 3D printing, vinyl cutters, and other tools, combined with an MHPSS component. Overall, 42 individuals benefited from the RIFs.
- The Migrant Integration Center Brasov, with the support from Solidar Suisse, AWO and ADH, continued to offer MHPSS together with two Ukrainian psychologists and organized a total of 60 MHPSS individual sessions and 8 MHPSS group sessions. A total of 84 persons have been supported by our two psychologists (32 new individual persons; 51 recurrent persons, 36 persons assisted in 8 group sessions).

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Specialized support is still limited to services that must be paid by the Ukrainian nationals.
- Children and adults living in independent apartments still do not have access to many opportunities for MHPSS activities.



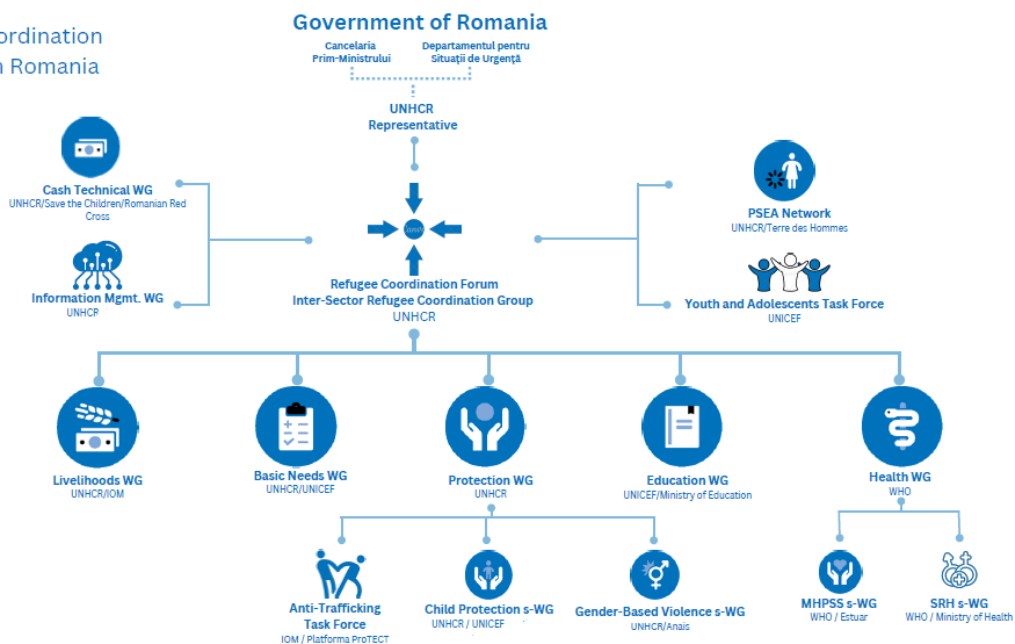
Trafficking in Persons

Achievements and Impact

- eLiberare continued to work on prevention with over 70 refugees and conducted safety plans for families with children. Each of them participated in an individual session with a social worker and a cultural mediator. The team evaluated each beneficiary and established a level of risk. According to the vulnerabilities identified, a safety plan was built in order to mitigate risks. Over 600 refugees were empowered to know their rights and implement safety measures while traveling or looking for a job after participating in info sessions. eLiberare organized 4 training sessions for 57 professionals on recognizing signs of human trafficking in the context of the Ukrainian crisis, trauma informed care and personal care of those working with vulnerable populations.
- eLiberare with the support of UNICEF is finalizing the book for children and adolescents on how to keep safe and avoid human traffickers offline and online. "The Kozacks" is a book for children but also a guide for parents which will be distributed in Ukrainian. In connection to this, eLiberare organized two prevention activities in Bucharest with 40 teenagers.

Working in partnership

Refugee Coordination
Structure in Romania



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LINKS

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