



# Romania

May 2023

Since the escalation of the international armed conflict in Ukraine on 24 February 2022, more than 8.2 million people have fled their homes to seek safety, protection and assistance across Europe. Over 3.4 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.

## KEY FIGURES\* (as of 30 May)

**8.2 M**

Individual refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe

**3.4 M**

Border crossing into Romania

**94 K**

Refugees from Ukraine remaining in Romania

**133 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

Since 24 February 2022, more than 8.2 million people from Ukraine have sought refuge across Europe. As of 30 May 2023, more than 3.4 million border crossings from Ukraine and Moldova into Romania have been recorded by border police, with some 94,160 people choosing to remain in the country. Around 133,975 Ukrainian (132,687) and Third Country Nationals (1,288) 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 94,160 (as of 30 May). This decrease was anticipated as many refugees who arrived during winter months expressed an intention to return in spring.

With the transfer of the government-ran 50/20 programme to the new assistance programme (under Ordinance 22/2023) and until the new system of governmental assistance is in full implementation RRP partners have been providing support, including a one-off cash assistance for 35,000 vulnerable refugees. Over the past weeks, more than 26,000 refugees have been verified for cash assistance. In addition, refugees are assisted in Bucharest and other major cities in Romania with dedicated counselling (via phone and in person) to access the new Government support programme.

To promote personal data protection across the interventions in the RRP, the Protection Working Group, organized a training for protection partners on the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). 63 participants from local and international organisations attended over two sessions and were trained on the GDPR policy in the humanitarian context.

On 12 May, the Inter-Agency Coordination platform organized a municipal coordination event in Bucharest. Over 50 officials from 22 municipalities attended the event and engaged in thematic discussions on good practices during the emergency and enhancing refugee inclusion and participation in municipal services in the mid-to long-term. The World Bank, along with IOM, UNICEF and WHO participated in a session on international actors' support to the municipal inclusion efforts. Links between the work of municipalities, and Romania's pledges at the Global Refugee Forum were also discussed.



### Spotlight on: How World Vision Happy Bubbles impact the lives of refugee children from Ukraine in Romania

[Recent World Vision research](#) indicates that children who have witnessed war have higher levels of anxiety and depression throughout adulthood. Trauma symptoms, toxic stress, and a sense of insecurity are only some of the effects of war on children's mental well-being. This is particularly true for Romania. Refugee children from Ukraine come from an adverse emotional background, experienced physical threats, loss, displacement, and separation from their caregivers.

Since March 2022, World Vision has been responding to the Ukraine Crisis in Romania, with Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), Protection, and Education in Emergency (EiE) among the most critical vulnerabilities, besides addressing refugee children and their families' Basic Needs.

Ten child-friendly spaces (CFS), known as Happy Bubbles, have been established across the country, in Bucharest, Braşov, Constanţa, Cluj-Napoca, Iaşi, and Vâlcea. Built on integrated protection services that prioritize children's safety, well-being, and engagement, these spaces provide a nurturing setting devoid of danger and fear.

In the Happy Bubbles children engage in games, learning, and inclusive activities tailored to their psychological needs. By providing a structured environment, the child-friendly spaces enable children to express their

emotions, strengthen resilience, develop social skills, continue their education, and regain a sense of security. As of today, more than 13,000 children are supported by cross-cutting child protection programming. Through Happy Bubbles, refugee children also attend English and Romanian classes. These language sessions not only improve communication skills and guarantee their integration into Romanian society, but also incorporate crucial information about child protection.

Aside from providing protection and educational support, Happy Bubbles serve as spaces for MHPSS activities, such as the First Aid Arts (FAA) program. Approximately 400 refugee children and 50 adults benefit from the ongoing FAA training. Through eight sessions and 17 calming exercises, participants learn self-regulation and interpersonal skills. This technique, which combines art and science, helps children aged 8 to 17 acknowledge their emotions, foster resilience, and handle stress. Generally, more than 13,500 people have benefited from psychosocial support.

Happy Bubbles facilities empower children with disabilities and those who require daily medication. Families receive financial assistance and vouchers for educational supplies, ensuring access to essential resources. Children with special needs and disabilities are celebrated and supported through inclusive events. Through melo-therapy and occupational therapy sessions, these children can express themselves and develop their skills.

Since most students from Ukraine continue their education remotely, laptop computers were distributed to refugee children and students from vulnerable families around the country to allow online learning. World Vision raised awareness on cyberbullying, conducting seminars about the possible hazards and effects of cyberbullying and ways of detecting and responding to such behaviour. More than 7,000 children have received educational support for online classes, afterschool programs, and non-formal education.

The ten child-friendly spaces not only address the immediate needs of refugee children and parents, but also lead the way for long-term rehabilitation, growth, and integration of refugees. This is a critical supplementary offer to World Vision's work, which is also meeting the needs of refugee families from Ukraine in terms of food security and hygiene, providing multi-purpose cash interventions, in 13 cities across Romania. Overall, World Vision Ukraine Crisis Response in Romania has reached over 200,000 individuals, and more than 99,000 children, including refugees and hosting communities, through the support of its nine local partners.







## Protection

### Achievements and Impact

- Given the discontinuation of the 50/20 programme in its current form and the implementation of the new government assistance programme since 1 May, protection partners focused on strengthening information provision and counselling to support refugees from Ukraine – both for new arrivals and those already residing in the country. To enhance communication with the refugee community on the new government assistance programme, the Department for Emergency Situations (DSU), UNHCR and CNRR together with other protection partners designed [informative materials](#) on the conditions outlined for the first and second months, and disseminated the information to refugees in the social media and communication channels.
- The Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR) provided information and counselling remotely through its helplines to 613 refugees. UNHCR continued to run its helpline and received over nearly 800 calls and over 1,000 messages (Telegram and WhatsApp) during May. PATRIR in cooperation with HEKS organized several joint workshops at the Ukraine House which was used as a registration space. Romanian Angel Appeal organized an awareness session on the changes for 100 refugees and supported 20 refugees who decided to join the new programme and in Galați, Rădăuți, and Constanța, CNRR organized three community consultations for over 80 refugees to increase awareness about the conditions of enrolment in the new housing and integration support program. Additional information was provided on access to the banking services, the employment opportunities and enrolment with the local employment agencies, the risks of labour exploitation and human trafficking, school/kindergarten enrolment, and on medical services. UNHCR held awareness sessions on conditions for registration in the new government assistance programme with local authorities NGOs for some 80 refugees from Ukraine in Constanța. Topics included registration for education and employment, and registration of people with disabilities.
- To address the protection needs of refugees from Ukraine, the Migrant Integration Center (MIC) Brasov, supported by Solidar Suisse and Danish Refugee Council, continued its protection interventions, including monitoring, individual protection assistance (IPA) and information dissemination. The MIC assisted 208 new refugees (139 adults and 69 children). Additionally, MIC interviewed 162 households (240 persons) for cash assistance and provided 114 refugees with cash assistance and delivered counselling on issues such as employment, accommodation, and bank accounts. The mobile team continued its work in Poiana Brasov, Zarnesti, Sacele, Ghimbav, Cristian, Codlea and Sanpetru.
- Terre des hommes (Tdh) continued its work in Bucharest, Brasov and Constanta (through partnership with the Civic Resource Centre), through adapted information, referrals, IPA, MHPSS and educational activities for both children and adults. Overall, Tdh's intervention supported 151 adults through 179 group and 25 individual MHPSS sessions, language lessons and IPA. They were supported either through direct services or referrals (e.g., food, doctors' appointments, support for legal documents, translation, transport to services).
- Meanwhile, CNRR also continued its assistance with the provision of interpretation and translation services during medical visits and during visits with banks, and in direct collaboration with the county employment agencies and the directorates for social assistance and child protection. It also provided protection support, advice, referrals, and information to nearly 6,200 refugees.
- In order to address the needs of newly arrived refugees, Salvati Copiii (SC) teams-maintained presence at border crossings points with Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova providing information, basic counselling and NFIs. Moreover, SC aided refugees (3,036 children and 6,477 adults) providing

interpretation and translation, key protection messages, social counselling and accompanying for accessing different services, such as banks, medical services and school enrolment.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Some refugees and local authorities, charged with the task to register applications for the new government support program, reported confusion about the initial requirements for enrolling in the first month of the programme and the conditionalities outlined in the new government assistance programme despite the information provision and support channels. Furthermore, vulnerable refugees, such those with disabilities and/or severe health conditions, large families, and those struggling with digital tools reportedly struggle to enrol in the new programme. Targeted interventions to address confusion with local authorities and clear and tailored information dissemination to refugees will be key to address challenges in the implementation of the new programme.



## 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 25 May 2023, local child protection authorities (DGASPCs), under the coordination of NAPCRA, have registered 26,774 children in Primero regardless of their transit status at the moment of registration. Cases are assessed and those facing high child protection risks are referred to local municipalities for follow up and appropriate services. As of 25 May, 6,076 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) have been identified and registered by NAPCRA and the Border Police. Disaggregated data is only available for 5,502 children: 2,401 staying in Romania and 3,060 leaving Romania (transit). 145 children from the Ukrainian childcare system and 41 UASC are currently under NAPCRA's supervision.
- In May, Tdh continued providing MHPSS sessions, educational activities and IPA in Bucharest, Brasov and Constanta. Tdh intervention supported 564 children in these three cities. The Resilience Innovation Facilities (RIFs) in Bucharest and Brasov continued their efforts, giving children the opportunity to explore 3D printing, vinyl cutters and other tools, combined with a MHPSS component. Overall, 32 individuals benefited from the RIFs. Currently, Tdh are setting up another RIF in Constanta, with the help of Tdh's partner organization (the Centre for Civic Resources- CCR). During the month, Tdh's 6 Child Friendly Spaces are operational in Bucharest, 1 in Constanta and 1 in Brasov; 179 group and 25 individual MHPSS sessions have been organised for a total of 404 children; 145 individuals have benefited from language classes (21 adults and 124 children) and 47 children were supported through the Individual Protection Assistance process in Brasov, and Constanta – either through direct services or referrals.
- CNRR continued to support refugee children to access their rights in Romania by helping families in the process of enrolling in kindergarten or school, topics which triggered an increased interest in the context of the new housing support program. On 8 May, CNRR organized a community empowerment session, focusing on the integration of the unaccompanied minors - beneficiaries of international protection, beneficiaries of temporary protection - and Romanian institutionalized children. CNRR also provided counselling on education, accommodation, health and cash assistance to 216 children in May.
- eLiberare organized a two-day workshop on the topic of child protection from violence and exploitation, attended by 95 beneficiaries with ages between 10-15 years.

- Refugees from Ukraine are assisted at Salvati Copiii 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. Case management was provided to 890 adults and 953 children in Bucharest, Galati, Iasi, Maramures, Suceava and Tulcea. The training on Child Protection in Emergencies and Safeguarding for teachers was continued in Iasi.
- More than 2,500 children and their caregivers based in Bucharest, Brasov, Constanta, Cluj, Iasi, Suceava and Valcea Area were reached by World Vision (WV) Child Protection programming during May. This included the work undertaken through the 'Happy Bubbles' (see *spotlight section above*). Language lessons, Romanian, English, are provided within Happy Bubbles on a weekly basis to ensure integration of Ukrainian children and their caregivers. Digital literacy lessons are provided within Happy Bubbles on a weekly basis to ensure basic professional skills and support the Ukrainian beneficiaries which want to integrate in the field of work. Psychologists working in Happy Bubbles were trained on the topics of Disability Assessment and Well Being Monitoring.
- World Vision provided parenting sessions to support caregivers to understand and meet the needs of children of different ages as well as strengthen the parent-child relationships. In Suceava, Iasi, Constanta and Bucharest the Say and Play program dedicated to parents and children continued. The topics during this month were "Our hopes and Caring for children." The First Aid Art program continued in Bucharest, Brasov, Constanta, Cluj, Iasi, Suceava and Valcea, Beneficiaries continued to develop their emotional regulation abilities and inter/intrapersonal skills. Families of children with disabilities or children requiring regular medications continued to receive CASH support and Vouchers. 400 music kits were distributed to beneficiaries from Suceava, Iasi, Constanta, and Bucharest.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Limited availability of services for disabled refugee children.
- Linguistic barriers especially for the much-needed MHPSS support.
- Adapting sensitive content to Ukrainian cultural acceptance.



## Gender-Based Violence

### Achievements and Impact

- Capacity building on GBV remains crucial for partners. Romania's National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Men and Women (ANES), East European Institute for Reproductive Health (EEIRH) and UNFPA co-organised a training on Clinical Management of Rape (CMR) which benefited 28 medical professionals and other frontline service providers during the week of 15-19 May. The training was an important step towards improving the technical capacity of frontline GBV service providers benefitting both refugees and Romanians and thus contributing to social cohesion. During this training UNHCR co-facilitated sessions on GBV, WHO and UNICEF co-facilitated sessions relating to their respective expertise. Sensiblu Foundation delivered a two-day GBV training in Cluj on 17-18 May for more than 20 representatives from local authorities and NGOs. The participants actively engaged in discussions and suggested long-term cooperation.
- In view of 28 May, the International Day of Action for Women's Health, under the call for action: "Our Voices, Our Actions, Our Demands, Uphold Women's Health Right Now!", [Asociația ANAIS](#) with support from [UNICEF Romania](#) organized an Empowerment through Self-Defense workshop in Bucharest on 27 May. 23 participants enjoyed a 4-hour workshop containing multiple soft and hard ESD skills, learned

new ways to deescalate conflict by using their intuition, assertiveness, voice, and physical strength, they considered the workshop extremely new, practical, useful, and fun, which was one of their expectations. Additionally, on 31 May Asociația ANAIS with support from UNICEF Romania held a ESD workshop to help with the inclusion of refugees from Ukraine stationed in Secondary School No. 6 in Bucharest. The school is temporary home for about 50 refugees from Ukraine. About 25 refugee children, a few teenagers and their mothers participated in this event, which marked the International Children's Day. In addition, 22 refugee women participated in the Empowerment through Self-Defence Training organized by Sensiblu on 6 May 2023 in Bucharest

- Sensiblu Foundation held awareness and support groups in five locations across the country (Bucharest, Cluj, Suceava, Constanța and Galați) and reached 517 women, accompanied by 18 children and 13 teenagers, as part of a separate group.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Gender concerns regarding integration in the labour market is popping up. There is a clash between the structural pressure to enter the labour market and a traditional mindset related to the role of man and women. While the man is considered the usual breadwinner, women sometimes restrain themselves from getting a job due to fear of triggering their partners' aggression.
- During discussions with refugees, sexual education is coming up as an issue of concern. While youngsters are interested in sexual education, more specifically giving consent, preventing GBV and birth control methods in Romania and Ukraine, elderly women sense the need not only to talk about sexuality and sexual violence.



## Education

### Achievements and Impact

- As of 12 May 2023, 12,453 refugee children from Ukraine (RCU) were officially enrolled in the national education system, (73 per cent as audients): 3,110 at pre-primary level, 4,282 at primary level, and 5,061 at secondary level. Enrolment requests have significantly increased over the past few weeks (250 per cent increase since March) and are continuing to rise still as a result of the Government decision no. 368, adopted on 26 April 2023, which introduced a conditionality linked to compulsory education (either in Romanian schools or in alternative face-to-face education programmes recorded with County School Inspectorates) in order for refugees from Ukraine to benefit from humanitarian support and assistance offered by the Government of Romania (the "new 50/20 programme").
- In this context, dedicated support was extended to the Ministry of Education and to County School Inspectorates to help operationalize the new conditionality and to process increasing numbers of enrolment requests. UNICEF concluded MoUs with an additional three County School Inspectorates (Tulcea, Galati and Constanta), supported County School Inspectorates in Bucharest, Brasov, and Sibiu to digitalize the automated processing of enrolment requests, and helped coordinate the submission of requests from Ukrainian refugee communities through local NGOs in collaboration with County School Inspectorates (e.g. in Bucharest, Brasov, Sibiu, Maramures).
- Meanwhile, support continues to be provided to ensure that all RCU 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.

- CNRR continues to offer counselling on access to education in Iasi, Galati, Suceava, Constanta and Bucharest. This includes assisting beneficiaries with school/kindergarten enrolment procedure; procedure of recognition and equivalence of studies/diplomas; referral to Romanian language courses and other educational activities. During the month of May, due to the adoption of the new government's assistance program, more refugees from Ukraine showed interest and requested information and guidance on education related issues. The number of people asking about day-care/kindergarten/school enrolment and university admission increased significantly as a result.
- In May, UNICEF distributed 8,520 Ukrainian textbooks benefiting at least 1,900 RCU of primary and secondary school age in collaboration with the Association of Ukrainian Teachers in Romania and the Embassy of Ukraine, as well as 1,579 laptops to help install computer labs in schools and learning hubs and facilitate access to online learning platforms, serving at least 6,000 children and adolescents.
- World Vision's Education programme reached around 1,500 children in Bucharest, Brasov, Constanta, Cluj, Iasi, Suceava, Valcea Area and Galati in May. In 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 activities that included educational support, non-formal education and recreational activities in a safe space. All children enrolled in these educational programs receive a certificate of participation to support their transition and further integration. In 3 other schools in Bucharest, Ocele Mari and Baile Olanesti, 450 school children enrolled in educational and child protection programs and 60 preschool children from Brasov and Suceava enrolled in early education programming offered within educational centres. Language and digital lessons, in Romanian and English, were provided within Happy Bubbles on a weekly basis to ensure integration of RCU and their caregivers. 2,640 vouchers for education were distributed to refugee families from Ukraine and 100 to Romanian vulnerable beneficiaries.
- Junior Achievement (JA) Romania has continued implementing activities fostering entrepreneurial education and financial literacy skills acquisition reaching more than 380 young Ukrainian beneficiaries in May. An additional 23 Ukrainian teachers and educational facilitators from Iasi and Arad have also been trained on JA's curriculum. Implementation by Ukrainian teachers is ongoing in Constanța, Bucharest, Suceava, Braşov, Iaşi, Galaţi and Arad. Ukrainian teachers capacitated by JA Romania in Bucharest have continued implementation upon their return to Odessa, in Ukraine, extending the learning opportunity to more than 50 Ukrainian children and youth in the city and region of Odessa.
- In May, Tdh provided Romanian language classes in Bucharest (in Mihai Viteazul for and in Tdh's Resilience Innovation Facility- RIF). In Lacul Tei center, Tdh continued afterschool-type of and in Constanta, Tdh's partner, CCR, provided English and Romanian classes for children and youth. In total, Tdh's reached 145 individuals with language classes (21 adults and 124 children), 32 children participated in RIF activities and 48 children participated in afterschool-type of activities in May.
- Sus Inima Programmes for Refugee Integration (SIPRI) operating in Sibiu supported learning activities benefiting 273 children and youths in May, from kindergarten up to high school level. SUSINIMA.PLAYS (integration through culture programme) also benefited 206 participants in May.
- Since the start of the Ukrainian crisis, the National Youth Foundation has opened or operated 11 youth centres with activities/services for refugees from Ukraine. Youth centres are spaces where young people from the local community have access to services and activities supporting their inclusion in local communities. Face to face Romanian language classes continued to be provided for free in Timisoara, Tulcea, Suceava and Bucharest. Online classes were also offered free of charge, involving Ukrainian staff with the aim of helping the participants to integrate into the community.
- WOSM / Scouts Romania provided 271 adolescents and youths with a safe spaces and various learning activities both indoor and outdoor, including access to reading materials and other education materials donated by UNICEF at the Scout Edu Hub in Bucharest.

- Romanian Angel Appeal's youth hub organized IT workshops in May benefiting 25 adolescents aged 13 to 21. English and Romanian language classes were also provided with 26 newly enrolled participants in May. Youth workers in the Youth Hub have also initiated several debates on various topics, which are now fully organised and facilitated by young people themselves. Since 22 May 2023, the Youth Hub is registered as an educational hub for young people with the Romanian Ministry of Education and is hence entitled to issue certificates of participation to young people participating in activities, in order to fulfil the requirements of the new government's assistance programme. An information meeting was also organized with Ukrainian young people interested in registering in a Romanian university. Through this meeting, support and general information was provided regarding the Romanian educational system. This was followed with one-on-one sessions facilitated by youth workers providing individual guidance and support.
- To date, IOM Romania has printed 2,445 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. Further, the materials are available in electronic format as well: [www.romaniaeacasa.ro](http://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, Galati, etc. Up to now, 1,698 persons, adults, and children, have been attending Romanian language courses. Further, IOM Romania is supporting teachers in schools from Bucharest where Ukrainian children are enrolled with cultural mediators (interpreters). IOM, in coordination with the County School Inspectorates in Brasov and Constanta organized a 3-day training session on 12-14 and 26-28 May respectively. A total of 41 Romanian teachers and educators attended the training, making it in total 142 teachers and educators who have participated till now in training sessions on teaching Romanian language as a foreign language.
- In partnership with UNICEF, Four Change Association has provided social integration services to children and families accommodated in Tei Transit Centre run by the Technical University of Civil Engineering and Mayorality in Bucharest. 49 children aged 7-17 and 22 children aged 3-6 participated in aged-appropriate learning activities: remedial education program (Ukrainian language and literature, history; mathematics, science), Romanian language classes, pre-school activities (4h daily, Monday to Friday), non-formal education program (i.e., drama classes/ theatre courses aimed to develop self-esteem and resilience).
- In partnership with UNICEF, ASSOC has opened a multi-services centre ("primo-hubs") for children and adolescent in Baia Mare, Sighetu Marmatiei (Maramures county), Satu Mare, and Negresti (Satu Mare county). 108 requests for registration of Ukrainian children in the Romanian education system in Baia Mare were collected and submitted to the County School Inspectorate.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- New assessment and study reports were released in May, including through IOM: [Romania - Surveys with Refugees from Ukraine: Needs, Intentions, and Integration Challenges \(Jan-Mar 2023\)](#) pointing out to the limited opportunities RCU commonly have to interact with their Romanian peers in a context where the majority still follows exclusively online courses offered by the Ukrainian education system ; and through NRC in collaboration with the National Youth Foundation - Romania: [Hope and uncertainty: A needs assessment of Ukrainian youth refugees in Romania and Moldova](#), which calls for the accelerated provision of language training support and the development of community centres where youths can connect meaningfully with their peers and communities.
- Some challenges and barriers are still being 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 with preliminary findings now expected to be available in June 2023.
- In view of the increasing number of enrolment requests in Romanian schools, there are increasing concerns on the actual capacity of the Romanian education system to absorb and meet the educational needs of all RCU and adults. While alternative and complementary learning modalities (e.g. education hubs) have been supported 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.

- 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 also for under-university levels.



## Health and Nutrition

### Achievements and Impact

- Save the Children (SC) Romania deployed medical and cultural mediation teams in the counties of Bucharest, Iasi, Suceava, Mures and Brasov to improve refugee access to healthcare services. Over the past 2-months SC has successfully facilitated the enrolment of 350 beneficiaries with family doctors, thus granting them access to specialised healthcare providers. SC also distributed 100 medical vouchers and engaged with health beneficiaries in comprehensive information sessions.
- WHO logged 494 consultations from its ongoing partnership with family doctors throughout May. This has brought the number of consultations in 2023 up to 3,880.
- WHO's cultural mediators continued community engagement throughout May by organising three walking tours for refugees from Ukraine in an aim to mitigate stress caused by living in a new and unfamiliar environment. Galati cultural mediators conducted individual counselling sessions for both adults and adolescents, along with continuing their support and assistance for refugees from Ukraine needing to access primary or specialist healthcare services.
- The Migrant Integration Center (IMC) Brasov continued the protection monitoring and individual protection assistance by providing services to 104 refugees who requested assistance for medical issues; this included 97 translations for medical appointments, 15 registrations with family doctors, 84 appointments with family doctors/GPs and the provision of medicines.
- Association for Liberty and Equality of Gender (ALEG) conducted 4 training programmes with 82 beneficiaries throughout May. These individuals, aged 16 and 45+, focused on psychological support in dealing with trauma.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Language barriers remain an issue that both WHO and health partners continue to address via cultural mediators and translators.
- Difficulties accessing family doctors for refugees from Ukraine are also recognised across the health sector, occurring on numerous levels such as registration, referrals, prescriptions, and disability access. Collaborations with doctors have been noted as not always being easy, highlighting the need for regulated healthcare provision and registration for refugees, particularly in the light of increased pressures on medical professionals and the healthcare system.



## Basic Needs

### Achievements and Impact

- Habitat for Humanity Romania (HFH RO) supported refugee families living in the Habitat apartments in Bucharest with specific information and explanations regarding the eligibility conditions of the new government-support program.
- UNHCR distributed 140,666 CRIs all over Romania. Between 15-19 May, 323 pillows, 168 mattress foam, 144 blankets were distributed. From January to end May 2023, 51,390 winter clothes, 8,518 hygiene kits and 9,824 blankets were distributed as top three requested types of NFIs.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Main problems encountered by refugees to register in the new government assistance programme include difficulty of issuance of the disability certificate, and uncertainty regarding acceptance of different certificates for school registration, as well as the opening of bank accounts.
- In some transit centres such as Radauti and Husi, access to meals remains a challenge with a rotation between several organisations that are temporarily covering this gap.
- Lack of funding remains challenging for NGOs that closing programmes for the emergency response component.



## Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion

### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR and partners have enhanced their efforts to support refugees' registration with the National Employment Agency (ANOFM), which has now become a prerequisite for receiving government assistance. The ANOFM reported that 7,015 refugees have registered with them as job seekers in the month of May (on a national level). In total, since the onset of the conflict, 8,804 Ukrainian job seekers have been registered and 927 labour contracts have been facilitated through ANOFM.
- HEKS EPER, Ateliere Fara Frontiere (AFF) and Jobs4Ukraine continued to provide various support services to refugee job seekers, including career counselling, language courses, vocational training, job-readiness support, and linkages to employment. This month, 72 refugee job seekers received individual career counselling (402 in total this year) and 135 refugees were enrolled into Romanian language courses (342 in total this year).
- Jobs4Ukraine also continued, to link refugee job seekers and employers in Romania through their online job platform. So far in 2023, 1,369 new job seekers (186 this month) and 91 employers (19 this month) have signed up on the platform. Moreover, in May, 214 job applications and 36 matches were facilitated in Romania.
- On 26 May, AFF held a workshop for 14 job seekers focused on discussing their career plans, options, and expectations, as well as the job market characteristics and opportunities.

- SIPRI has consolidated a partnership with the AJOFM and have supported 290 refugee job seekers with registering for employment assistance this month. SIPRI and AJOFM are also developing a common counselling, formation, and training method for refugees from Ukraine and collaborating in developing translations for the existing AJOFM courses.
- On 12 May, UNHCR together with Jobs4Ukraine supported a job fair organized by the local employment agency (AJOFM) in Constanta and assisted refugees from Ukraine with interpretation to facilitate communication with employers. Over 35 employers and 65 refugee job seekers participated in this fair, with more than 200 suitable jobs available for refugees from Ukraine. Ahead of this event, on 11 May, Jobs4Ukraine held a workshop in Constanta where they supported 34 refugees from Ukraine with creating their CV's and preparing for the job fair.
- The MIC Brasov has continued to provide Romanian language courses for 100 beneficiaries. Two A1 level, one A2 and one B1 level-courses are currently organized at MIC's headquarters in Brasov. MIC also facilitates socio-cultural/educational activities for refugees from Ukraine together with other migrants and Romanian citizens organized by its intercultural mediators. Also SIPRI provided language courses, in partnership with SOS Kinderdoerfer, reaching 38 adults for Romanian language training, and 37 for English courses (with classes provided three times a week).
- To improve the lives of displaced populations and promote their successful integration into the local community, the World Bank is supporting the local administration of Cluj-Napoca in developing a virtual one-stop shop (OSS) for refugees from Ukraine accessing the support services under a new financial assistance program. A refugee can complete a 10-minute digital form in Ukrainian on behalf of their entire family, get help with hints and comprehensive FAQ when entering the virtual system. The OSS then translates the information to Romanian, automatically generates and submits up to 11 different forms required for financial support, job seeking, school enrollment for children, and language training, based on the individual's specific needs. Navigating multiple institutions in person and on paper can take the refugees up to 2 hours and often requires the assistance of Ukrainian-speaking translators. Most importantly, the OSS allows to collect at the first point of refugee's contact with the authorities at the Directorate for Social and Medical Assistance all information related to his needs. As such, the social assistance, employment, language training, and schooling authorities connected to this integrated platform can better anticipate and plan the volumes of services that will be needed across time, leading to more efficient support.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There are existing gaps in available support services, namely limitations related to available kindergarten spaces, translation support at AJOFM offices, and the capacity to teach Romanian as a foreign language.

## Cross-Cutting Priorities



### Cash-Based Assistance

#### Achievements and Impact

- In May, UNHCR assisted around 7,700 refugees (and around 15,000 more refugees are in the pipeline) out of a target of 35,000 vulnerable refugees with one-time Multi-purpose cash assistance to meet refugees accommodation needs during the 50/20 transition period.
- Save the Children provided financial support for 2,007 individuals (687 Households) through the distribution of 2,648 multi-purpose vouchers, covering sectors such as education, health and basic needs.

- The MIC in Brasov has continued the cash assistance program designed together with Banca Transilvania in Brasov. In May, MIC provided financial help for 114 persons and 251 persons received cash assistance. The program aims to support 2,500 persons.
- World Vision reached out to 212 elderly persons aged 60 + under the Elderly Protection Cash Assistance Program and provided the second instalment of RON 480 to each beneficiary. Also, 150 children 0-17 years with health complications and the need for special medical attention received the fourth payment of RON 598 under the Cash Assistance Program for Health. In total, there are 6 payments under Cash Assistant Program for Health which started in January 2023. The fifth and sixth payments were also provided in May to each beneficiary for the total value of RON 1,200.

### 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

- On 4 May, the Inter-Agency Network on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) organised a Training of Trainers (ToT) on PSEA in Bucharest with participation of 21 staff of its members. The ToT was co-facilitated by UNHCR and UNICEF. The training emphasized the use of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) training tools and introduced the Gouta Case Conference, which is a case study tool to facilitate peer to peer exchange.
- On 11-12 May, UNICEF in Romania organized an online ToT training for PSEA focal points dedicated to implementing partners. A total of 10 focal points attended the sessions and learned about the IASC PSEA six core principles as well as about the PSEA UN Common Assessment framework. Attendees also received a PSEA toolkit for civil society organizations developed by the country office to match the existing legal framework and the specificities of Romanian CSOs. This material is meant to support small organizations to comply with the UN PSEA organizational standards. The training was rated as excellent by attendees.
- During the month of May, PATRIR reviewed and enhanced its recruitment procedures, including a clear mention of PSEA safeguards from the job description to the final moment of hiring to comply with the respective standards and best practices.
- World Vision International (WVI) rolled out one training for 26 staff from WVI and partners after participating in the ToT organized by the PSEA Network. During this training on 26 May, staff were introduced to the subject PSEA and showed interest in receiving more training on PSEA.
- Weekly Women Empowerment panels, brunches and workshops are being organized by WVI on a weekly basis in Constanta to help beneficiaries share their experiences and coping mechanisms within hard environments and situations. WVI distributed 400 brochures on GBV and PSEA in Suceava, Iasi, Constanta, and Bucharest.
- Leaders are responsible for safety in the workplace and promoting a culture of safeguarding. To this end, the Safeguarding Hub Eastern Europe has produced a three-part series on leadership and safeguarding. The first document provides practical steps to establish a positive safeguarding culture in an organization, including role modelling safeguarding values as a leader. The second resource outlines the policies,

procedures, and practices required for creating an effective safeguarding environment in an organization. Lastly, the third piece offers tips on how to respond to safeguarding concerns and highlights key principles to follow as a leader. 14 participants representing local NGOs and the private sector attended the Safeguarding Essentials training organized by the Safeguarding Hub Eastern Europe.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- WVI reported that in their areas of intervention they have identified a need to create better communication and engagement of their refugee beneficiaries as well as a need to continue raising awareness and sharing information on PSEA and on the available way to make complaints in a safe and confidential way.



## Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

### Achievements and Impact

- Action Contre la Faim (ACF) and Parentis have provided vital support to over 200 beneficiaries in Iasi, including through MHPSS and Care Practice consultations. The field teams have launched trauma-focused group sessions, with a total of 25 people participating thus far. Trauma-focused group sessions with children are expected to commence soon. The methodology for the MHPSS pilot study on stigma as a barrier to mental health has been finalized, and data collection is set to begin. Additionally, an agreement has been signed with Inspector for Emergency Situation (ISU) for the capacity building of 500 firefighters on Psychological First Aid (PFA).
- Mures Hub through one of the WHO Cultural Mediators provided crucial support to 112 refugees from Ukraine through approximately 119 MHPSS activities in Tirgu-Mures. The organization's most notable achievement this month was the opening of a Day Care Center for Ukrainian children aged 3 to 10. Thanks to support from IOM, Mures Hub was able to hire professional educators (who are also Ukrainian refugees) to staff the centre. Additionally, the administration of Fortress generously allowed the organization to use one of their buildings from Monday to Friday. This has provided a space for children to spend time with their friends and engage in enriching activities, while adults may access job assistance services and prepare documentation. Mures Hub also helped refugees enrol in a new financial program, helping with all necessary documents and information.
- WHO continues to provide MHPSS support to refugees from Ukraine through cultural mediators in Cluj, Galati, Brasov and Bucharest. In Galati, WHO has also made significant progress in providing specialized care to patients from Ukraine, with close interaction between cultural mediators and psychiatrists. This has been crucial, as translation of communication alone was not enough. Significant work has been done to persuade patients to access specialized care, with follow-up conducted in the form of progress monitoring. People in need of PSS are being invited to joint events that feel homely and community-based in nature. The format of individual consultations has been effective, and people have given positive feedback afterwards, expressing gratitude for both the consultations and referrals.
- The MIC Brasov continued to offer MHPSS together with two Ukrainian psychologists and organized a total of 72 MHPSS individual and 12 MHPSS group sessions. A total of 131 persons have been supported by two psychologists.
- In May 2023, World Vision provided more than 2,300 children with MHPSS activities, designed to improve their well-being and sense of security. World Vision conducted MHPSS awareness-raising activities, including informative sessions for children and adults in Bucharest and Finnish School. A total of 1,268 children and around 150 adults benefited from focused psychosocial support in all locations. World Vision

is working on informative bulletins to inform beneficiaries about the availability of psychological support services in their native language in Bucharest, Brasov, and Constanta. In addition, 819 children and 200 adults benefited from focused individual and group psychosocial support. Specialized MHPSS services were also provided, with approximately 200 children benefiting from professional psychological support.

- Salvati Copiii/ Save the Children Romania reached over 3,000 children and adults through MHPSS activities in 8 counselling centres, 3 transit points and 2 mobile camps. Psychological counselling sessions were provided to 25 children and 86 adults at the counselling centres. Its local teams delivered ToF TeamUp trainings to teachers in different cities enabling them to incorporate PSS activities, like TeamUp, within their schools. In Iasi, the team organized social outings and workshops to facilitate the exchange of traditional dance moves between Ukrainian and Romanian families, while a music club was hosted weekly for adolescents. Additionally, the psychologist conducted individual and group sessions using art-therapy techniques for both children and adults. In Suceava, psychoeducation and support groups were held for adults, accompanied by movement-based, arts-focused psychosocial activities and group games for children. Baia Mare offered yoga and dance classes for all age groups, along with photography workshops for teenagers. Galati's local team organized group trips for Ukrainian and Romanian families, conducted psychoeducational sessions for adults, and engaged younger children in science experiments. In Timisoara, the psychologist provided individual counselling for children and hosted group activities tailored for preschool-aged children. Across the country, TeamUp activities reached over 202 children aged 6-17.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Administrative and language barriers continue to make it difficult for families to access medical assistance. While the projected bilateral recognition of the qualification for psychologists could be helpful, it is uncertain when it will be implemented.
- RRP partners and local authorities should explore innovative solutions to overcome administrative and language barriers, such as partnering with local communities or providing language support services. By addressing these gaps, the needs of the refugee communities will be better served and the effectiveness of their MHPSS programs improved.
- Some of the challenges encountered included the provision of psychological counselling with the assistance of a translator, which affected the engagement of people in the sessions. Furthermore, referring individuals to specialized MHPSS support has proven difficult due to the limited options available.



## Trafficking in Persons

### Achievements and Impact

- IOM, alongside UNHCR and various Romanian government agency representatives, participated in a workshop on the recommendations of the OSCE Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, on the need to enhance anti-trafficking prevention amid mass migration flows, held in Bucharest on 16 May 2023.
- eLiberare, the Embassy of Sweden and IOM co-hosted a conference on effective strategies to combat human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, on 17 May 2023 in Bucharest. The conference brought together international specialists in combating human trafficking for sexual exploitation, ambassadors, and survivors of exploitation. The event followed the conference on prevention models to reduce the demand for services that support trafficking for sexual exploitation, organised by the Swedish Presidency of the EU and the Swedish Ministry of Justice on 29-30 March in Stockholm. The Conference in Bucharest focused on the changes that can be made to the European Anti-Trafficking Directive, which

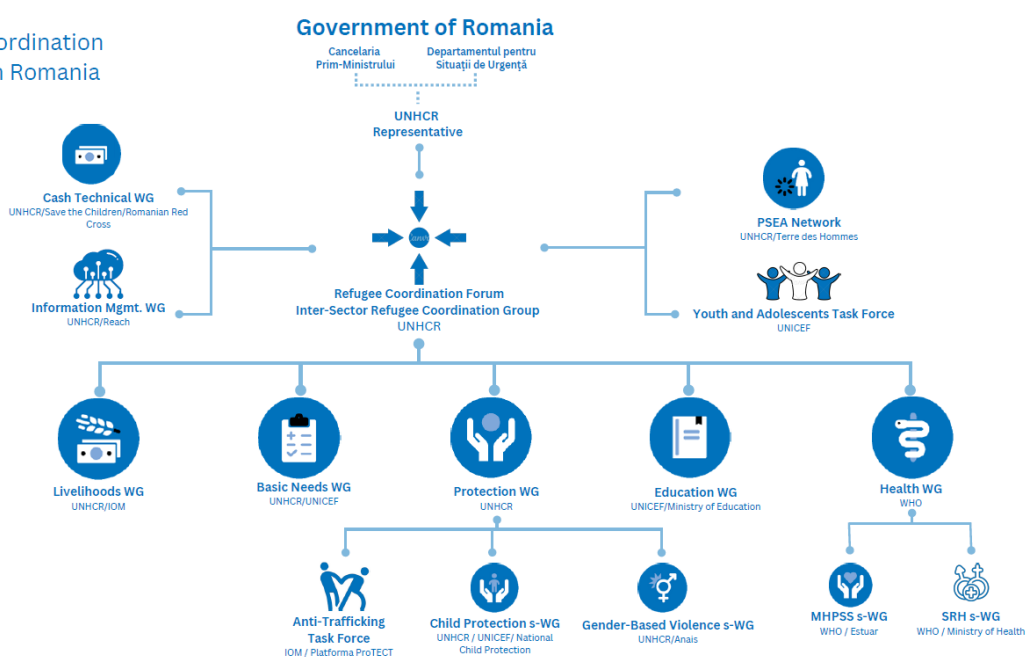


is currently being revised, and on capitalizing on the experiences of the victims, to develop impactful public policies. The premise of the event was that human trafficking is cross-border, with victims often being moved from one state to another for exploitation, which justifies a common approach at the international level and especially at the European level. This was particularly relevant in the context of the current Ukraine refugee crisis, which was a major aspect of the conference.

- IOM presented on the most recent Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) surveys concerning refugees from Ukraine: their needs, intentions, and integration challenges in Romania, from January to March 2023, at a conference sponsored by IJM from 22 to 26 May 2023, on enhancing cross-border collaboration to combat trafficking in human beings.
- SIPRI and ECLER conducted info session on identification of potential exploitation and human trafficking cases for 14 public authority representatives and 31 refugee women from Ukraine aged 18 to 60+ to build their capacity.
- eLiberare continues to implement the Kompass Model and created Individual safety plans for 255 refugees from Ukraine in Bucharest and provided information sessions for 25 and 112 beneficiaries in Bucharest and Brasov respectively.

## Working in partnership

### Refugee Coordination Structure in Romania



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## LINKS

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