



# Romania

August 2023

Since the start of the international armed conflict in Ukraine which has forced some 5.8 million people to flee their homes seeking safety, protection and assistance across Europe, more than 4.5 million border crossings into Romania have been recorded. The Government and partners including civil society, the private sector, volunteers, and international organizations have responded to the crisis with generosity and hospitality.

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 comprising 34 appealing partners implementing humanitarian activities for the refugees from Ukraine. The Inter-Agency platform is currently working on the preparation of 2024 RRP.

## KEY FIGURES\* (as of 27 August)

**5.8 M**

Individual refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe

**4.5 M**

Border crossing into Romania

**92 K**

Refugees from Ukraine remaining in Romania

**141 K**

Refugees who obtained temporary protection in Romania

**57.9%**

Of refugees who obtained temporary protection are women and girls

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

**USD 153.6 M**

Financial requirements for the Romania response\*\*\*

**USD 57.8 M**

Founding received 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](#). \*\*\*\*See the [Refugee Response Financial Tracking \(RRFT\), Romania](#)

## Operational context

Since 24 February 2022, more than 5.8 million people from Ukraine have sought refuge across Europe. As of 27 August 2023, more than 4.5 million border crossings from Ukraine and Moldova into Romania have been recorded by border police, with some 92,262 people choosing to remain in the country. Around 141,513 Ukrainian (140,171) and Third Country Nationals (1,342) 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 92,262 (as of 27 August 2023).

Following the attacks at the beginning of August targeting Ukrainian port facilities at Izmail that are located within a short distance from Romania (50km east from Isaccea border crossing), UNHCR and partners have intensified its protection monitoring at major border crossings with Ukraine and Moldova through its field presence in Galati, Iasi, Suceava, and Constanta. Partner CNRR has observed arrival of people fleeing the attacks in Odessa. Pendular movements are ongoing with around 17,000 Ukrainians entering and exiting Romania daily.

On 17 August, the Romania's Resettlement Committee, composed of the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the General Inspectorate of Immigration decided to resettle 200 refugees to Romania in 2024. This decision complements the refugee protection ensured through the asylum system, the temporary protection extended to the refugees from Ukraine, as well as the services provided to refugees at the Emergency Transit Centre in Timisoara.

The Inter-Agency Coordination Team implemented the Services Advisor platform to ensure that people in need can see what services are available in their vicinity, while allowing for organizations providing services to collaborate and create synergy. The platform currently holds 750 services provided by over 100 organizations, including essential public services for social and economic inclusion (i.e., school inspectorates, employment agencies, etc.) in English, Romanian, Ukrainian, Russian and Arabic. Since its official launch in June 2023, over 5,000 users have used the platform, many of which use it before starting their journey from Ukraine to plan a safer journey. Future plans for the platform include optimizing the search engine, translating the platform to Romani language and promote its use within the local population as over half of the services are available for Romanians too.

### Spotlight on: Empowering displaced individuals from Ukraine in their quest to self-reliance by Project Voyager through the Jobs for Ukraine project

Project Voyager's aims to address immediate job placement needs while nurturing long-term professional growth for refugees through innovative technology, strategic collaborations, and employment services.

Over 173,000 people visited the [Jobs for Ukraine](#) platform since its launch on 3 March 2022. With 3,500+ job openings across 60 countries and over 11,700 candidate profiles (over 50% based in Romania), the platform serves as a bridge for diverse employment, having facilitated over 8,500 interactions between job seekers and employers in IT, administrative, hospitality, supply chain, customer





service, manufacturing, and more. Project Voyager also deployed other impactful technologies such as the [Information Tool](#) for the Romanian Government in partnership with UNHCR and The Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR), to facilitate relevant information provision and dissemination about legislation changes impacting persons of concern.

To ensure a safe digital space, each employer and job posting is manually vetted on the Jobs for Ukraine platform, users can report misconduct and they can find relevant resources for recognizing legitimate employment.

The Jobs for Ukraine employment counseling has already guided 400 individuals in 2023 in navigating the intricate job market. Community events, spanning workshops, job fairs, industry-specific micro job fairs, communities of practice, and entrepreneurship-focused gatherings, have attracted over 500 attendees in Romania. The Jobs for Ukraine Job Fair in Bucharest engaged 260 job seekers and 27 employers in November 2022, yielding on-the-spot hirings. Project Voyager partnered with the regional employment office in Constanta to support over 100 refugees in Constanta to find employment at the National Job Fair.

Through strategic partnerships, Project Voyager forged a strong path to skills development. Working with reputable training providers, Project Voyager facilitated free online English and Romanian classes for over 250 refugees from Ukraine this year. Additionally, Project Voyager ran vocational education and training initiatives, underpinned by partnerships delivering advanced IT courses, digital technology training and other domains.

Recognizing the need for psychosocial support, Jobs for Ukraine launched the [Mental Health and Psychosocial Support \(MHPSS\)](#) project, which connects over 60 qualified Ukrainian- and Russian-speaking mental health professionals with 8 humanitarian organizations who need their skills to provide MHPSS services to war-affected people.

Overall, Project Voyager's Jobs for Ukraine has empowered over 6,500 Ukrainian refugees on their path to self-reliance in Romania. Two filmmakers from Argentina captured bits of Project Voyager's impact in a short documentary, [the trailer can be watched here](#).



## Protection

### Achievements and Impact

- During August, protection partners continued to prioritize information provision and counselling activities to ensure refugees are equipped with information about their rights and support available in Romania, recognizing the ongoing need to respond to refugees' inquiries with critical information such as temporary protection, social assistance to vulnerable groups and refugees with disabilities, and the procedures to access the new government support program. In this period, UNHCR received over 650 calls and 400 Telegram and WhatsApp messages with inquiries related to protection and inclusion matters. The Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR) provided information and counselling remotely through its helplines to 268 refugees and supported 5,308 refugees from Ukraine on protection and integration at the border crossing points and in major urban centres. CNRR also expanded its counselling and community outreach activity in Braşov. SUS INIMA Programme for Refugee Integration (SIPRI) counselled 520 households (around 1,508 persons) on general protection aspects and assisted in the communication with the social assistance directorates, the county employment agency, and other relevant authorities in Sibiu.
- The Protection Sector partners also provided ongoing protection assistance through different activities and interventions around the country to address identified protection needs of refugees from Ukraine. Terre des hommes (Tdh) continued counselling and information provision activities in Bucharest, Brasov, and Constanta and concentrated their efforts on key protection interventions such as Individual Protection Assistance, referrals to competent authorities, MHPSS, and educational activities for both children and adults, thus supporting 265 adults. The Migrant Integration Center (MIC) continued the protection monitoring and individual protection assistance, information dissemination, protection by presence in Brasov and surrounding locations. MIC assisted over 100 persons with referrals, interpretation, information provision and counselling on issues pertaining to temporary protection, document translation, education, medical system, employment, accommodation, transport, access to banking services, and the new government housing support program.
- Protection partners continued direct engagement with refugees to understand priority needs for greater inclusion in Romania and the barriers to access social services, primary care, and education. In early August, UNHCR consulted with 151 refugees in Constanţa and Năvodari through a community questionnaire. The purpose of the questionnaire was to identify community-based protection processes and resulted in the identification of 87 refugees from Ukraine to participate in community-based protection activities. On 28 August, UNHCR kicked off its month-long participatory assessment exercise with Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian refugees in Romania in order to better understand refugees' needs and experiences in Romania through specifically designed focus group discussions. The results of these exercises will be utilized by UNHCR to effectively design interventions based on the identified needs of refugees.
- In Suceava, on 16 August, CNRR held a community consultation with 14 Ukrainians in order to gain knowledge of the encountered barriers in the process of recognizing a disability within the Romanian system and to provide information on the available social services, access to education, and conditions in the housing and integration support program. In Cluj-Napoca, community consultations led by PATRIR focused on the need to ensure a unitary implementation of the government support program through dialogue with the local authorities and on prospects for persons of concern settling for other forms of status in Romania, beyond the temporary protection. The insights gained from these consultations help inform further local and national advocacy interventions and the implementation of targeted assistance programs to effectively address those challenges.

- To support refugee-led initiatives for greater integration and community protection, UNHCR signed grant agreements with three refugee-led organizations, Asociația Comunitatea Ucrainenilor din Mediaș (ACUM), Asociația Ucraineni în Iași, and Association Support for Ukrainian Community in Galati. With the support of the grants, these three organizations will promote social inclusion through summer camps and facilitate access to services and livelihood opportunities through an online platform.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The challenges related to achieving a consistent implementation of the conditions for enrolment in the housing and inclusion support program persist. Numerous local authorities have communicated their decisions to reject incomplete or delayed applications for housing support. However, they have often failed to provide these decisions within a reasonable timeframe, which is necessary for allowing proper avenues of appeal and review.
- The process of obtaining recognition for disability status and accessing disability support services remains complex. Interpretations of the established procedures vary among county social assistance and child protection directorates. This is despite the issuance of explicit methodological instructions by the National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Regarding personal assistance and the employment of relatives as caregivers for individuals with severe disabilities, accessibility hinges on the limited capacity of local authorities to provide comparable benefits or personal aid. Although housing remains a paramount concern for refugees, other critical needs are gaining prominence. These include food security, primary medical support, and psychological well-being, which are increasingly pressing concerns.
- There is a sense of insecurity within the communities of Ukrainian refugees with regards to the housing situation from September onwards, when employment will be required from most adults requesting government support. The lack of clarity about the schedule of the already delayed payments for the previous months of the housing support program makes room for a lot of speculation and tension within the community, which at least partially fulfilled the integration conditions put forward by the Romanian government.



## Child Protection

### Achievements and Impact

- Child protection actors remain active in ensuring the provision of child protection activities and support structures for refugee children from Ukraine and their families. Through its integrated hubs and counselling centres children (643) and adults (876) benefitted from Save the Children's services provided by its teams of social workers, cultural mediators, psychologists, educational facilitators and MHPSS workers and legal counsellors. Also, 547 children and 677 adults have benefitted from its case management services.
- Terre des hommes (Tdh) continued its work in Bucharest, Brasov and Constanta through the provision of MHPSS sessions, educational activities, adapted information, referral, and Individual Protection Assistance (IPA). Tdh's interventions have impacted 871 children residing across all three cities. In Bucharest, Tdh mobile teams maintained regular presence at accommodation centres across the city to ensure refugee children's participation in various activities and that they benefitted from child protection support and interventions. In Brasov, Tdh's team also focused on afterschool programs and organized a captivating treasure hunt of personal values in the form of a trip to Tampa, bringing together children and



their caregivers in this fun activity. The Civic Resource Center (CRC) organized a psychosocial event in Navodari where a large Ukrainian refugee population reside. More than 80 refugees benefited from this event.

- Additionally in Bucharest and Brasov, Tdh's Resilience Innovation Facilities remained dynamic hubs of activity, granting children an avenue to explore the realms of 3D printing, vinyl cutters, and other tools, all complemented by a MHPSS component.
- In order to address continued needs to strengthen social cohesion between refugee children from Ukraine and Romanian children, Save the Children arranged for events in Suceava, Baia Mare, Iasi and Bucharest with nearly 200 children participating in the various games, workshops and fieldtrips.
- Child protection partners helped refugee children and their families from Ukraine celebrate the Ukrainian Independence Day in various locations across Romania. Tdh organized psychosocial events and Save the Children held art, games and social cohesion activities for Ukrainians and refugees of other nationalities as well as Romanian children.
- As part of efforts to strengthen host and refugee children's access to justice, Asociatia pentru Victimele Infractiunilor Sexuale (VIS) conducted roundtable discussions in 7 counties with 60 representatives from local child protection authorities, prosecutors, police and medico-legal officers. This resulted in exchanges of lessons learnt from the trainings received on forensic investigations and how to improve multi-sectoral collaboration for reducing re-victimization of victims and, in general, the management of children's cases. Initial mappings of referral pathways to the justice system were also developed, which will help in developing child protection referral pathways for all types of cases, including for refugee children. The consultations and mappings took place in Suceava, Botosani, Iasi, Vaslui, P. Neamt, Bacau, and Focsani and will continue in early September in additional counties.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- [Order no. 119/20643/2023](#) of the Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister of Internal Affairs, and the Minister of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities regarding the appointment conditions, role, duties and training, training and professional experience requirements for persons designated as representatives for unaccompanied foreign minors who apply for or obtain a form of international protection appeared in the Official Gazette in late-August. Child protection partners are currently familiarizing themselves with the new Order and its impact on asylum-seeking children. CNRR will organize a conference in September for the local and national child protection authorities and child protection actors specifically looking at the key Articles of the Order to address questions and see how actors can support this new role.
- The establishment of a child protection referral pathway in Romania for local and international organizations remains a key priority of the sub-sector and partners continue to discuss and explore best practices to implement one in the country.



## Gender-Based Violence

### Achievements and Impact

- WHO with the cooperation of the PSEA Network and UNHCR organized GBV & PSEA trainings to its cultural mediators and coordinators across the country (9 women, 2 men) as well as to humanitarian workers (10 women, 1 man) in Bucharest. The trainings aimed to strengthen local capacity and facilitate integration of GBV in the healthcare system.
- UNICEF partnered with the women's rights organization ANAIS to deliver GBV prevention and assistance services to both refugees from Ukraine and the host community. The GBV prevention services targeted

both women and adolescents through a series of innovative, participatory, and community-based activities such as empowerment through self-defence (ESD), Bucharest walking tours with a feminist lens, sessions on “healthy dating in a digital world” and sessions on labour rights for women under the EU Temporary Protection Directive. Over 150 participants attended the activities in August. On 3 August, 29 social service professionals from Bucharest attended a workshop on the ‘Intervention of authorities in cases of sexual and gender-based violence among migrants: between challenges and solutions’ where they learned about the Romanian legal framework and practical difficulties in assisting migrants victims of gender-based violence.

- The Sensiblu Foundation (SF) continued raising awareness on GBV among refugee women across the country by organizing 12 informative sessions (2 in Bucharest, 7 in Constanța, 1 in Galați, 2 in Suceava) for 202 persons (176 women, 17 girls and 9 boys). Discussions related to their stay in Romania and GBV specific topics took place, reaching a total of 43 support and socialization groups: 17 in Bucharest, 4 in Vâlcea, 3 in Cluj, 6 in Constanța, 7 in Galați and 6 in Suceava benefiting 691 persons (554 women, 92 girls 45 boys). Additionally, 686 dignity kits were distributed across the country (174 in Suceava, 133 in Bucharest, 90 in Constanța, 89 in Vâlcea/Băile Olănești, 86 in Galați and 14 in Cluj). Furthermore, social, legal, and psychological counselling was provided to 17 people. Additionally, Empowerment through Self-Defence for 18 women and 7 girls took place on 5 August at the day-care centre Ariel in Galați.
- On 22 August, UNHCR conducted a Gender-Based Violence (GBV) training for humanitarian workers at the Emergency Transit Center, Reception Center, and Ukrainian refugee services in Timisoara. The training was attended by 12 women and 5 men who are actively involved in assisting refugees.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There has been a recurring request for additional capacity strengthening sessions, particularly focused on GBV case management. This need is particularly pronounced in regions where GBV case management resources are limited. It is of paramount importance to provide training to key focal points responsible for protection-related matters. This training will encompass essential case management techniques and fundamental principles that must be upheld when helping survivors and individuals at risk of GBV, exploitation, and trafficking.
- One of the main challenges discussed in the group sessions has been the inconsistency of the assistance provided. While a few women have already begun to return to Ukraine, others are contemplating their return without a set timeline. The Romanian language barrier has been identified as a significant obstacle to integration, and the absence of childcare facilities during required work shifts is particularly notable in Vâlcea/Băile Olănești.
- Living conditions in accommodation centres remain a concern especially in Tulcea.



## Education

### Achievements and Impact

- The school year came to an end in June, with 27,662 refugee children from Ukraine (RCU) officially registered to date with the national education system, largely as a result of the reform adopted through 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 registered with County School Inspectorates) in order for RCU and their families to qualify for finance assistance offered by the Government of Romania under the temporary protection scheme. 69 education hubs have also been officially registered with the Ministry of Education to date, providing alternative

learning opportunities including learning continuity by the Ukrainian curriculum to reportedly an additional 10,067 RCU.

- Coordination in the education sector remains critical, 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, especially in the context of preparations for the new academic year. UNICEF pursues the coordination role in partnership with other UN agencies (IOM, World Bank, UNHCR), the Government of Romania, as well as NGOs supporting the delivery of educational services. In this regard, efforts have mainly focused on the coordination of educational activities over summer, and on initiating preparations for the new academic year, which is due to start in September, in collaboration with education authorities both at national and decentralized levels.
- 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 ('education 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. In August, activities have particularly focused on remedial education, Romanian language courses and after-school type of interventions including life skills education and recreational activities.
- UNICEF has prolonged its partnership with local NGOs to ensure continuity of education services over summer holidays, focusing on Romanian language training courses, remedial education, and recreational activities. Intensive Romanian language courses were delivered in schools in collaboration with local NGO partners e.g., JRS, and county school inspectorates (ISJs) benefiting 648 children in the district of Constanta and 574 in Bucharest.
- In Sibiu, SUS INIMA has been organizing summer school activities benefiting 389 children aged 6-17 in August as well as language courses benefiting 260 children and adolescents (135 for Romanian language, and 125 for English language).
- CNRR continues to offer counselling on access to education in Iasi, Galati, Suceava, Brasov, Constanta and Bucharest. This includes assisting beneficiaries with school/kindergarten enrolment procedure; procedure of recognition and equivalence of studies/diplomas; translation of documentation; and referral to Romanian language courses and other educational activities.
- Tdh has been concentrating its efforts on efforts on various educational initiatives, including afterschool programs in Brasov and Bucharest and Resilience Innovation Facility (RIF) activities, as well as language classes in Bucharest and Constanta. In Bucharest, Tdh conducted language classes in both Romanian and English for children at the Malva centre and the RIF. Similarly, in Constanta, Tdh partner organization carried out language classes in English and Romanian for individuals of all ages, including children, youth, and adults. Additionally, the RIFs in Bucharest and Brasov continued their engagement with 3D printing, vinyl cutters, and other tools, all complemented with MHPSS components. The Center for Civic Resources in Constanta initiated RIF-type of activities. Tdh afterschool activities continued as well in Bucharest and Brasov, based on the following modules: emotional and social wellbeing (Module 1); society, integration and healthy lifestyle (Module 2); geography and the universe (Module 3); mathematics and natural science (Module 4); technology (Module 5); and culture (Module 6). Overall, the following numbers illustrate Tdh's efforts and contributions in connection with educational activities for the month of August: 97 individuals have benefited from language classes (12 adults and 85 children), 63 children participated in RIF (STEM) activities, and 106 children participated in afterschool-type of activities.
- Junior Achievement (JA) Romania has continued implementing activities fostering entrepreneurial education, financial literacy and personal development skills with support from Ukrainian teachers and educational facilitators in schools and hubs, reaching approximately 100 young Ukrainian beneficiaries in August. These activities have been implemented in Timișoara, Arad, Constanța and Cluj-Napoca. Grassroots level activities have been set up in Suceava also in order to facilitate Job Shadow experiences



in the county, supported by the JA Job Shadow Kit. 7 schools and educational hubs have been capacitated and supported with infrastructure to conduct JA-supported educational activities.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Some recent reports suggest increase in distress within refugee communities due to the lack of clarity with regards to public schooling accessibility for children. Several families have reported submitting enrolment requests back in May and June, which are not yet processed by education authorities, leaving children not assigned to schools as yet. Adults are highly concerned that they may not be able to afford to stay if they have to quit their jobs in order to stay home with their children.
- For children under the age of 5, there is a lack of available spots in day-care centres and preschools, especially in larger cities and rural areas where educational facilities are scarce. This situation also poses challenges for parents seeking employment, as they cannot leave their young children unattended.
- Children with disabilities living in small towns or rural areas face difficulties when trying to enrol in schools due to the schools' limited space and the complicated process of recognizing disabilities.
- In preparation for the new school year, it has been suggested to consider organizing a 'Back to school' campaign including provision of essential supplies with stationery and other relevant materials for children.
- As the number of enrolment requests in Romanian schools continues to rise, there are growing concerns about whether the Romanian education system can effectively accommodate and address the educational needs of all Refugee and Migrant Children (RCU) and adults. While alternative and complementary learning methods (like education hubs) have been introduced to alleviate the pressure on schools and facilitate a gradual transition of children into Romanian educational settings since the beginning of the emergency crisis, RRP partners are currently facing significant challenges in securing funding to sustain these efforts. As a result, there's a looming risk that these services might have to be discontinued starting from September 2023, unless there's an urgent mobilization of additional resources. Some partners, such as Caritas in Bucharest, have already scaled back or ceased their educational activities due to lack of funding.
- 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 throughout the next academic year at school level in coordination with County School Inspectorates.



## Health and Nutrition

### Achievements and Impact

- WHO supported family medicine clinics in Galati, Brasov, Suceava and Bucharest delivered over 200 consultations to Ukrainian citizens during August. Accessible primary healthcare is the cornerstone of the Romanian national health system and supporting and incentivizing family doctors to treat Ukrainians ensures their entry into and engagement with the national health system.
- Between 1 – 18 August, WHO cultural mediators in RomExpo, Bucharest provided direct guidance on how to navigate the Romanian health system and access primary & specialist care to 134 refugees from Ukraine. They also delivered weekly mini lectures via telegram to assist refugees with adapting to their new living conditions and maintain good mental health in challenging circumstances. Individual psychological counselling sessions were also provided to 22 refugees at RomExpo. The WHO cultural mediator in Cluj conducted 31 individual counselling sessions and 3 psychological support groups benefiting 17 refugees.

- WHO launched a sexual health social media campaign with the aim of promoting good health and dispelling myths and misconceptions around contraception and STIs at the beginning of August. The social media tiles were developed by WHO in Ukrainian, Romanian and English and shared with other NGOs for distribution. Improving adolescent understanding on the importance of contraception is a key step to addressing adolescent pregnancy rates in Romania and protecting youth from the spread of sexually transmitted diseases.
- WHO conducted a training on GBV and PRSEAH for family doctors and therapists in Sibiu on 28 & 29 August. 29 healthcare workers participated in the training, including representatives from the Sibiu County Public Health Directorate and Health Insurance House, as well as family doctors, psychologists, and teachers from Sibiu and adjacent regions. Main topics discussed included basic GBV concepts and guiding principles, first line support tasks and an introduction to PRSEAH. Building the national capacity to respond to GBV is integral to ensuring those affected by prohibited and unlawful sexual behaviour receive the necessary care and support.
- MIC Brasov provided guidance to over 150 refugees from Ukraine on temporary protection, translations, education, medical system, work, accommodation and transport throughout August. Further assistance to refugee from Ukraine included referral to specialized medical institutions and accompaniment to medical appointments.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The prolonged humanitarian response for the international conflict in Ukraine has led to an increased risk of fatigue among communities and local-level actors. This highlights the importance of addressing burnout and ensuring the well-being of those involved in providing support services.



### Basic Needs

#### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR delivered core-relief items (CRIs) including hygiene kits and bedding to nearly 1,325 refugees in Constanța, Galați, Suceava, and Târgu Mureș. Nearly 5,449 refugees living in Tulcea, Isaccea, Constanta and Galati received CRIs such as family/women and child hygiene kits (2834) and sleeping bags (509) in cooperation with local partners like Novapolis (Constanta), Jesuit Refugee Service (Constanta) and Proveritas (Galati). Furthermore, in cooperation with Asociatia Aradul Civic, UNHCR distributed 222 hygiene kits, assisting in total 261 women and men as well as 176 children living in Arad.
- UNHCR and the Department for Emergency Situation (DSU) are currently engaged in a site monitoring and assessment initiative. In August, they utilized a data collection methodology that involved having the managers of collective sites fill out a self-administered survey. This survey was disseminated to around 900 sites registered with DSU, which were identified as collective centres via SMS and e-mail. The monitoring exercise also looked at the facilities, services and needs of the collective centres. Aggregated data was collected from the sites monitored with information on WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene), access to healthcare, as well as needs and accessibility to both food and non-food items. Additionally, the assessment covered aspects related to protection and communication within the communities.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- UNHCR conducted social media monitoring on platforms and channels that are widely used by the Ukrainian refugee community in Galați. Popular topics of discussion included requests for short-term property rentals, updates on traffic conditions on the Reni-Izmail-Odessa Road and the route between

Romania and Bulgaria. Additionally, UNHCR cash for protection and its eligibility remains one of the main topics of discussion among refugees. Another issue raised by refugees is the limited capacity for free medical consultations provided by the Red Cross in Constanta. There was a noticeable gap between the demand for these consultations, which was 2-3 times higher than the available capacity. Refugees also frequently inquired about support and reimbursement related to the purchase of medicine.

- Emergency accommodation is needed especially in Galati, where only a limited number of transit spaces are available.



## Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion

### Achievements and Impact

- HEKS EPER provided career counselling to 15 refugees from Ukraine and organized a 5-day intensive manicure training for 11 refugees. Moreover, they have continued to link refugee job seekers to Romanian language courses. 45 students completed the first module of the course (made up of 11 two-hour sessions, 22 hours in total).
- Ukrainians in Iasi continue to link refugee job seekers to available employment opportunities in Iasi. They facilitated five successful hires and established a relationship with two new employers who have various job openings available for refugees. Moreover, through introductions facilitated in the Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion Working Group, Ukrainians in Iasi is establishing a collaboration with HIAS Romania to jointly support the hiring of refugees who are based in Iasi.
- Between 17 to 25 August, Ateliere Fara Frontiere (AFF) and Sensiblu Foundation organized an intensive Romanian language course (36 hours in total, 4 hours per day x 9 days) in Baile Olanesti with 34 refugees from Ukraine participating. During the course, the participants were also introduced to available job opportunities and received guidance on job searching techniques. SIPRI provided Romanian and English language courses to 187 beneficiaries.
- On 18 August, the Specialized Job Fair for Refugees from Ukraine, beneficiaries of the Bucovina Institute Association, took place. The event was held at ROUA the Info HUB and organized in partnership with AJOFM Suceava, involving 10 employers, 105 job openings in different fields, and more than 80 Ukrainian refugee job seekers. Communication was facilitated by Bucovina Institute Association's translators who mediated between employers and job seekers.
- HIAS Romania facilitated the employment of two refugees from Ukraine (hired by KFC). Moreover, through HIAS's support, nine refugees are currently in the process of getting their Ukrainian driver's licence recognized and taking to required exam to get hired by UBER. Since the start of the year, HIAS has linked 23 refugees from Ukraine to employment (13 with KFC, 5 with BISAR company, 4 with Nova POSHTA and 1 with UBER). HIAS also provided career counselling and CV building support to 45 job seekers and organized five information sessions with employers with 84 refugees participating.
- SUS INIMA assisted 47 refugees with various job readiness activities ranging from CV creation to networking with job recruitment agencies, etc. SUS INIMA also supported 120 refugees to register with the Employment Agency (AJOFM) in Sibiu.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Ukrainians in Iasi and Bucovina institute Association both highlighted that there is still a lack of available part-time jobs for refugees, which are particularly important for facilitating the employment of parents with caretaking responsibilities. They also underlined that persons above 60 years old who are willing and capable of working commonly face age discrimination when seeking employment. Moreover, many

Ukrainians who rent housing on credit counting on financial assistance from the government to come through are now being evicted from their homes by landlords who are unwilling to wait longer for rental payments.

- SUS INIMA has observed a very high level of distress within the refugee community due to the poor level of clarity in regards with what will happen from September onwards due to the requirements. In Sibiu, integration of refugee children in the public school system has been very limited. Without the possibility to drop of children in school/day-care, many parents are struggling to earn and maintain employment.

## Cross-Cutting Priorities



### Cash-Based Assistance

#### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR has started delivering the first payments of the Cash for Protection Programme to the most vulnerable refugees from Ukraine currently residing in Romania. More than 3,000 individuals received 630 RON/person.
- Red Cross assisted 1,666 individuals from 623 families with first allocation of financial assistance for 630 RON/person. The support will continue until November for the families residing in Romania.
- The Migrant Integration Center in Brasov has finalized the cash assistance program in Brasov. During the month of August, the MIC provided financial help for 65 individuals from 27 households.
- Good Neighbors Japan has made the first payments of multipurpose cash assistance to 307 people from 83 households for 568 RON/person.
- Save the Children provided financial support to 1,930 individuals through the distribution of 2,801 multifunctional vouchers: 986 vouchers to 986 refugees for education and 1,815 vouchers to 944 refugees for basic needs. Each voucher was for 200 RON/person.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Although more functions were made available in the UNHCR deduplication Tool (RAIS) and more partners joined or showed interest in using the tool in the near future, it is still not possible for organizations to reflect there the actual assistance provided due to technical problems. Continuous efforts are made in order to further harmonize the process and find best practices, as well as resolving all remaining system bugs.



### Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

#### Achievements and Impact

- Efforts to build capacity of aid workers and authorities to make the sector safer continued. UNICEF in Romania organized three information sessions for humanitarian workers regarding the protection from sexual exploitation and abuse upon request of its partners. A total of 27 participants attended online sessions and were sensitized to humanitarian principles, expected behaviours from humanitarian

workers and vulnerabilities of refugee populations. The information sessions were developed from the PSEA IASC training pack and according to the feedback provided, the session was rated as very useful and relevant by the participants. The Safeguarding Hub Eastern Europe conducted the safeguarding essentials training on 10 August in Bucharest for 15 individuals representing 13 NGOs. UNHCR as co-lead of the PSEA Network delivered two short training sessions on PSEA to the benefit of 22 medical professionals and other service providers, in the context of a GBV training organised by WHO on the 17 and 18 August in Sibiu.

- Partners have also focused on PSEA and safeguarding system building and strengthening. Safeguarding Hub Eastern Europe has conducted 5 coaching sessions to 2 CSOs that are seeking to develop or consolidate their safeguarding organisational system. The Hub also published a podcast titled, [Guiding the Way: The Role of Leaders in Supporting Safeguarding in Eastern Europe](#), which discusses the role of leaders in promoting a culture of safeguarding, the challenges they may encounter, and how they can implement safeguarding practices within their organisation from an Eastern European perspective.



## Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

### Achievements and Impact

- SIPRI provided direct psychological support services to 137 refugees (49 participants were 6-12 years, 46 were 13-18 years, and 42 participants were 19+ years). The support was aimed at addressing mental health and psychosocial needs and offered a range of interventions and therapeutic approaches to help individuals cope with trauma, stress, and other psychological challenges. The demographics highlight the diverse age groups and gender representation of individuals benefiting from psychological support services, further establishing the need for targeted psychosocial interventions.
- SIPRI also organized psychological workshops attended by 255 Ukrainian adolescents. These workshops are a lifeline for victims of forced resettlement, particularly aiding in their integration and management of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). With around 200 beneficiaries (aged 6 to 17) every month, these workshops combine theatre and therapy to create a safe space for healing and growth.
- IOM continues to be actively involved in promoting and facilitating access to mental health and psychosocial well-being for Ukrainians and other third-country nationals (TCNs), together with its implementing partners. A range of activities, including individual counselling, group sessions, psychosocial activities and referrals for additional assistance when needed are provided. In August, 109 individual counselling sessions for 43 adults and 31 children, and 17 group counselling sessions attended by 112 persons, were provided.
- Patrir conducted 25 individual therapy sessions in August, offering personalized and targeted support to individuals facing mental health and psychosocial challenges. These sessions provide a safe and confidential space for individuals to explore their emotions, develop coping strategies, and work towards their overall well-being. In addition to individual therapy, Patrir also facilitated group psychotherapy sessions for 13 participants, providing a collaborative environment to share experiences and gain valuable insights and coping strategies, and additionally delivered art therapy sessions which provided a creative outlet for self-expression, health and the promotion of wellbeing and resilience.
- Patrir has also established a weekly group therapy session in the Ukrainian Hub, located in Cluj. These sessions are designed to cater specifically to the needs and requirements of the Ukrainian community. Every Wednesday, participants come together in a safe and inclusive space to receive support, share their concerns, and address their mental health needs. This tailored approach ensured that the therapy



sessions were culturally sensitive and responsive to the unique challenges faced by the Ukrainian community.

- Salvati Copiii / Save the Children Romania reached over 4,000 children and adults through MHPSS activities in counselling centres and transit points across Bucharest, Galati, Iasi, Suceava, Constanța, Piatra Neamt, Baia Mare, Timisoara, Mures, Brasov and Tulcea. Psychological counselling sessions were provided to 30 children and 54 adults at counselling centres in Bucharest, Galati, Iasi, Mures, and Timisoara. Social cohesion and psychosocial support activities targeted over 3,400 children through interactive workshops, arts and movement-based games, community-building events, outdoor games and social outings including trips to museums, cultural landmarks and tourist sights. To celebrate Ukraine's National Day, local teams hosted a series of workshops specifically designed for both children and parents which celebrated the country's heritage while fostering community engagement. Through a blend of traditional activities, storytelling, and skill-building exercises, the workshops served as a platform for families to connect and share experiences, thereby strengthening community bonds. At a national level, Team-Up activities reached over 100 children aged 6-17 years.
- Tdh teams worked with both children and adults residing in semi-permanent centres and those living in independent apartments. In Bucharest, Tdh continued their MHPSS initiatives in several centres, including Hotel Casa Siqua, Buftea, Mihai Viteazul, and the Resilience Innovation Facility (RIF) operated by Tdh utilizing the MGSC (Movement, Games, Sport, and Creativity) approach, which aligns the five pillars of wellbeing. Individual counselling sessions and psychological first aid was also provided. In Brasov, Tdh organized a creative treasure hunt centered around personal values, as well as a trip to Tampa. The activities of the Child Advisory Board also resumed. Moreover, Tdh initiated a Big Brother / Big Sister program where older youth facilitated the learning of younger children. In total, 177 group and 31 individual MHPSS sessions were delivered, benefiting 854 Ukrainian people, including 572 children and 182 adults.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Patriri has observed a decrease in participation in group meetings, likely due to financial constraints and changes in state programs. Efforts should be made to ensure equitable access to mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services, especially for marginalized populations and individuals in remote areas. Bridging the gap and reaching out to those facing barriers in accessing support is crucial. Patriri recognizes the importance of ensuring the sustainability of MHPSS activities. Long-term planning, resource allocation, and capacity building initiatives are needed to maintain the continuity and effectiveness of programs.
- Continuous efforts should be made to enhance the capacity of professionals and practitioners in providing trauma-informed care. This includes promoting cultural sensitivity, understanding the impact of trauma, and employing evidence-based interventions tailored to the specific needs of individuals affected by conflict and displacement. Salvati Copiii / Save the Children Romania faces a notable challenge in integrating trauma-informed practices within sectors collaborating with MHPSS.
- Establishing robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms is necessary to assess the impact and effectiveness of MHPSS activities. Regular data collection and analysis enable evidence-based decision-making, program improvement, and accountability.
- Most NGOs do not offer suicide prevention services and there is a significant absence of dedicated suicide prevention programs.



## Youth and Adolescents

### Achievements and Impact

- UNICEF has continued to observe local initiatives of working with/for refugee adolescents and youth from Ukraine and their social inclusion. Since the end of July, interactive events were organized in Iasi, Suceava, Baia Mare, Sighetu Marmatiei and Bucharest for promoting the UNICEF participation platform U-Report Europe and the Youth and Adolescents Task Force Telegram channel @amongteensRo dedicated to them. The events reached more than 100 participants and 20 young volunteer people actively contributed to these activities. From 62 adolescents interviewed by UNICEF, the most common plan for the summer was to return to Ukraine, yet in the longer term, learning Romanian was among the most relevant issues to them, while the impressions about the current language classes was appreciated by the majority. Regarding intentions to attend Romanian school, the most popular answer was "probably not". Making new friends was the most popular factor that helped adolescents feel better upon arriving in Romania. After Suceava, sports activities engaging Ukrainian and Romanian adolescents led by professional coaches were organized in UTCB Center, Bucharest; these showcased the impact of sports for development and social inclusion and addressed challenges in engaging adolescents in non-formal activities without familiar facilitators or materials in Ukrainian.
- Romanian Angel Appeal's Youth Hub in Bucharest continued activities based on the needs of the adolescents that come to the Hub. For instance, activities that encourage teamwork, like treasure hunts, sports activities, as well as leisure activities aimed at encouraging creativity, socialization (hand-made, culinary, photography workshops etc.). 11 young people completed the ECDL course, as well as 12 completed Romanian language classes, all of them received accredited certificates.



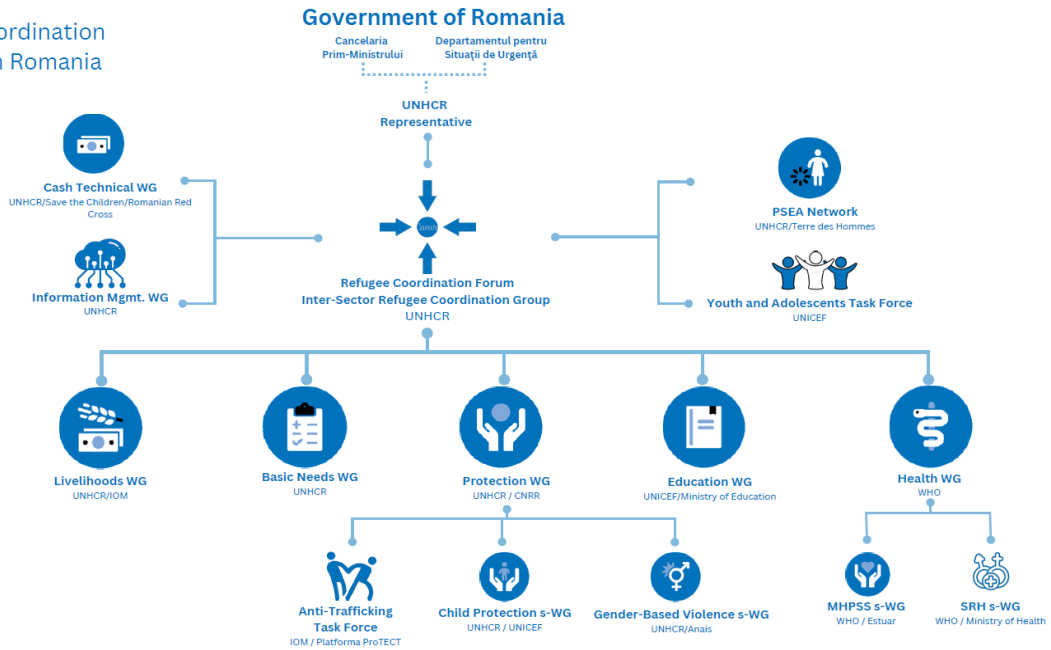
## Trafficking in Persons

### Achievements and Impact

- eLiberare organized in-person information sessions for 26 refugees from Ukraine on how to get a job in Romania, the integration process and mental health in Brasov (8) and Bucharest (18). The participants were referred and monitored to receive help and access the services.

## Working in partnership

Refugee Coordination  
Structure in Romania



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## LINKS

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