WHO Romania Monthly Newsletter

October 2023 Highlights

- *WHO Representative, Dr. Caroline Clarinval and Minister of Health, Prof. Alexandru Rafila participated in the Quality-of-Care Technical Workshop in Bucharest, 6-10 October.*

- *WHO Romania together with representatives from ANES and EEIRH attended a Training of Trainers workshop for health managers on integrating GBV care into health systems, 16-19 October.*

- *WHO Romania held a 'Convening of Strategic Partners' event on 17 October, attended by over 40 embassy delegates and government and civil society representatives.*

- *Minister of Health, Prof. Rafila and Dr. Clarinval attended the 73rd session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe in Astana, Kazakhstan, 24-26 October.*

Emergency Response

Receiving care in Romania - Account of a Ukrainian Refugee Family

https://sway.office.com/FBe5MNGvZjf3jHzP#content=zzpCr3bDStedWa

Ensuring refugee access to primary and specialised healthcare has represented an operational priority for WHO Romania who engaged a team of Ukrainian/ Russian speaking Romanian family doctors to register refugees, provide primary healthcare and facilitate access to specialised care. Over 3,500 Ukrainian refugees have received essential care through these WHO supported family doctors in 2023 so far.

The enclosed video features the story of Iryna, a young Ukrainian mother and her family, their journey to Romania, and the family's experiences receiving care from a WHO supported family doctor.

ToT for Health Managers on Integrating GBV Care, 16-19 Oct

WHO and representatives from the National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men (ANES) and the East European Institute for Reproductive Health (EEIRH) attended a European region 'Training of Trainers' for health managers on integrating GBV care into health systems including topics such as minimum standards for care of survivors of violence against women; policies, protocols and budgeting as well as quality improvement and monitoring and evaluation.

WHO, in collaboration with ANES and EEIRH will cascade these learnings and capacity building to health facility managers across Romania in 2024.

1 - WHO Romania wins prize for best training presentation during ToT event.

2 - WHO Romania GBV expert presents during the health managers ToT.

Inter-agency Collaboration on Improving SRH Care for Refugees

WHO Romania attended two round table discussions on improving sexual & reproductive healthcare for refugees in October:

- **Safeguarding the Refugee LGBTQI+ Community:** WHO country office took part in a hybrid round table event on safeguarding the refugee LGBTQI+ community, organised by UNHCR on 24 October and shared WHO policies on PSEAH with a wider audience.
- **Round table on Access to SRH and GBV services in refugee receiving countries:** WHO country office, in collaboration with the WHO EURO and UNHCR facilitated an online round table discussion on access to SRH and GBV services in refugee receiving countries. The event aimed to find ways to improve access to services for refugees and vulnerable host populations through close collaboration with civil society organisations (CSOs) and NGOs.

Community Engagement: Case Study

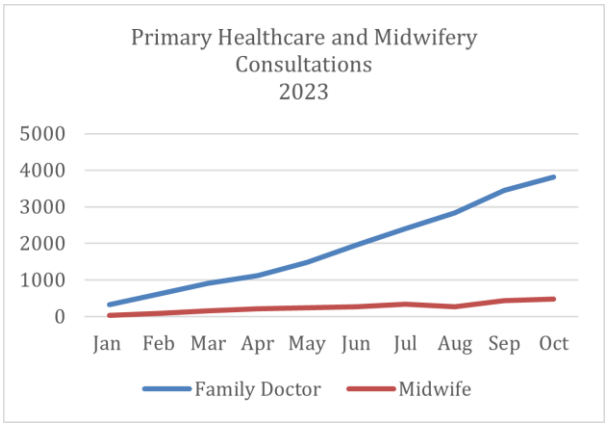
Yulia, pictured, moved together with her family to Tg Mures to escape the conflict in her hometown. She regularly attends art therapy sessions supported by WHO cultural mediators for the following reason:

"I had never painted before; I didn't even know that this activity could give [me] such peace. It's as if I find myself in another reality, free from anxiety and worries. At the last session, I painted two pictures in red colours, I wanted to throw out all my negativity and anxiety. It would seem that these are negative emotions, but the pictures turned out very beautiful. I am surprised by this transformation of feelings - that I can safely get rid of all the negativity."

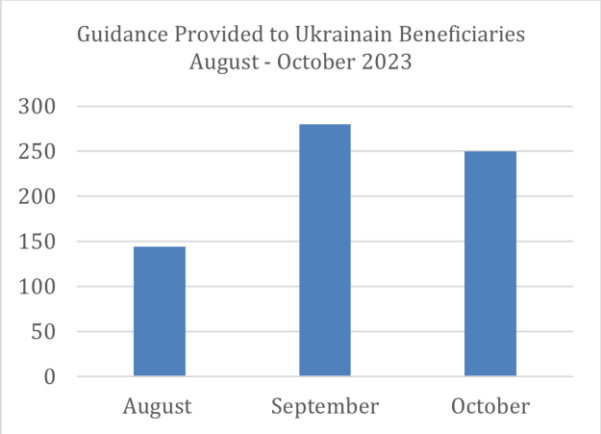
3 - Yulia attends an art therapy session organized by WHO cultural mediators in Tg Mures.

WHO Health Programs: Monthly Data Insights

- WHO cultural mediators delivered counselling sessions to 386 beneficiaries and provided guidance and support in accessing healthcare to over 250 Ukrainians.
- WHO cultural mediators in Tg Mures additionally conducted 19 art therapy sessions attended by 67 Ukrainian women and teenagers, providing beneficiaries with a creative outlet for stress and anxiety.
- WHO supported family doctors in Bucharest, Galati, Suveava and Brasov delivered 361 consultations to Ukrainian refugees.
- WHO midwives in Galati, Constanta and Bucharest provided over 52 midwifery consultations to Ukrainian refugees.
- The inter-agency refugee call centre received a total 245 calls in October 2023, 5% of which were health related.



4 - Cumulative primary healthcare and midwifery care consultations in 2023



5 - Number of Ukrainian refugees supported in accessing healthcare over past 3 months.

National Recovery & Resilience Plan (NRRP)

Data and Digital Health

- WHO Digital Health experts traveled to Timisoara and Cluj in October for initial meetings with regional stakeholders and actors including representatives of teaching hospitals and medical universities. The scope of the meetings was to understand the specific needs of the regions with regard to the development of the Digital Health Strategy and to explore pragmatic alternatives to implement telemedicine projects within NRRP.
- WHO Romania and WHO Europe held a two-day retreat in Bucharest to discuss the first draft of the National Digital Health Strategy (2024-2030) exploring areas such as current health

trends, digital literacy, governance, priorities, universal health coverage, strategic objectives, implementation plan and roles and responsibilities.

Health Service Management

The following Training of Trainers (ToTs) modules developed by WHO and the Ministry of Health for health trainers and academics took place at the National Institute for Health Service Management (INMSS) in Bucharest, as part of the technical assistance offered by WHO for the implementation of Romania's NRRP:

- Innovation and Digital Transformation (2-5 October)
- Designing and delivering health care (9-13 October)
- Review of innovative teaching methodologies in executive education (16-20 October)

6 - Module on strengthening knowledge on digital technology in health care.

Quality of Care

WHO Romania and WHO Quality of Care Team in Athens held a technical workshop in Bucharest to present the results of a pilot study testing 25 quality indicators in 6 hospitals across the country.

The event was attended by Minister for Health Prof Dr Alexandru Rafila and WHO Romania Representative Dr Caroline Clarinval and captured lessons learned for the planning of the next phase of the project, the strategy for quality of care and patient safety, the roll out of quality performance measures and the establishment of a Technical Working Group (TWG) for health workers.

7 - WR Dr Caroline Clarinval and Health Minister Prof Rafila opening the Technical Workshop on Quality of Care.

8 - Dr Joao Breda, Head of the WHO Office for Quality of Care and Patient Safety in Athens also joined the session virtually.

Country Office Events & Communications

Convening of Strategic Partners

WHO Romania had the privilege of inviting key health stakeholders, operational partners and friends to a 'Convening of Strategic Partners' event in Bucharest on 17 October.

The event aimed to brief partners on WHO's programs, operations, and achievements over the past year and to provide a platform for participants to discuss the health situation and health priorities in Romania.

Notable participants included:

- Dr. Diana Paun, Presidential Advisor for Public Health representing the Government of Romania

- Mr. Andrei Del Cel, Counsellor Ministry of Health
- The Honourable Ambassadors of Finland, Malta, Sweden, Switzerland
- Representatives of the Embassies of Canada, China, European Commission, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Korea, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, United Kingdom.

9 - Dr Diana Paun delivers an opening address for the event.

10 - The event was attended by over 40 embassy delegates, government and civil society representatives.

11 - WHO Romania Health Operations Manager presents WHO's activities and achievements.

73rd WHO Regional Committee for Europe

Minister of Health, Prof Rafila and WHO Romania Representative, Dr Clarinval, together with a delegation from the Romanian Health Ministry, attended the 73rd session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe in Astana, Kazakhstan, 24-26 October.

Minister Rafila took part in the panel discussion on “Strengthening Primary Health Care to Advance Health and Disease-Specific Objectives” and presented best practices from Romania and engaged in discussions on innovation, patient care, training of health care workforce and promotion of rural health care.

Secretary of State Dr Adriana Pistol was elected Deputy Executive President to the assembly of WHO Europe RC73.

The 53 WHO EURO member states also adopted a historic framework for action to protect and support health and care workers in Europe and Central Asia. This achievement is the result of discussions and consultations with governments, civil society and health workers, including the regional high-level meeting in the Romanian capital in March 2023, which resulted in the Bucharest Declaration.

12 - Health Minister Prof Dr Alexandru Rafila at the WHO Europe RC73.

13 - WHO Representative Dr. Clarinval and colleagues at the WHO RC73

Keep in touch

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