



Romania

October 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 4.9 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. In preparation for the RRP 2024, the Inter-Agency mechanism submitted the 2024 budget appeals of 37 appealing partners for the 2024 RRP to the Regional Bureau on 23 October 2023 for inclusion into the Global Needs Overview.

KEY FIGURES* (as of 29 October)

5.8 M

Individual refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe

4.9 M

Border crossing into Romania

84 K

Refugees from Ukraine remaining in Romania

146 K

Refugees who obtained temporary protection in Romania

57%

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 29 October 2023, more than 4.9 million border crossings from Ukraine and Moldova into Romania have been recorded by border police, with some 84,307 people choosing to remain in the country. Around 146,507 Ukrainian (145,097) and Third Country Nationals (1,410) 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 84,307 (as of 29 October).

The border crossing between Ukraine and Romania at Isaccea reopened on 15 October after its temporary closure following a drone attack on 6 October 2023. The attack led to the sinking of the ferry loading pontoon has been partially repaired allowing for a 50 per cent resumption of the ferry service. UNHCR in Galați and CNRR continue to monitor the situation noting higher than usual movements on alternative routes via Galați and Oancea at border crossing points. Currently there are some 83,500 refugees from Ukraine in Romania.

UNHCR finalized the Multi-sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA), an inter-agency product within the framework of the 2024 Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP). The MSNA is a collaborative exercise to identify the most pressing needs of refugees from Ukraine across various sectors such as protection, health, education, shelter, livelihoods, food security, and others. Comprehensive data to guide planning, implementation, and evaluation of programmes and interventions was gathered.

Spotlight on: The Romanian Angel Appeal Foundation (RAA) support to children, youth and adults

The Romanian Angel Appeal Foundation (RAA) was founded in 1991 by the wives of the Beatles. RAA's mission is to build an equitable future for every child, youth and adults through impactful actions and sustainable results in the educational, social and medical fields. In 2022, RAA extended support to children and families affected by the international conflict in Ukraine, emphasizing education and integration. RAA initiatives included establishing day centres, providing non-formal education, supporting access to the formal education system, emotional support, and fostering integration of displaced children within the Romanian community, benefitting over 1,340 children and youth and employing 35 Ukrainian adults. RAA's focus be condensed into three primary layers:

1. Preschool and school-age children's education

At the OMINIS and Perla centres, RAA established two Play, Learning, and Parenting Hubs with Ukrainian educators, providing normalcy for 141 preschool children. In 2022, a third centre fostering Romanian-Ukrainian preschool integration was created in partnership with DGASMB (Direcția Generală de Asistență Socială a Municipiului București). The centres have been taken over by DGASMB in August 2023.

RAA aided "Mihai Viteazul" National College's teachers and students with teaching supplies and facilitated the



opening of the "Ienăchiță Văcărescu" Elementary School. Teaming up with JRS, over 100 children participated in a special summer program. In addition, 196 teenagers, children, and parents took part in one of the 5 camps organised in 2022 by RAA. Summer camps and recreational activities provided much-needed joy and healing. During the summer, children rediscovered the delight of play in camps organized across the country. Teenagers also found solace in these camps, spending a week disconnected from their

devices and surrounded by nature.

2. The socio-emotional health of adolescents

Acknowledging the vulnerability of young individuals, RAA established the Youth Centre within the National Library of Romania in Bucharest in May 2022. As of January 2023, the centre moved to its permanent location and operates as an open and life skills centre for youth people over 13 years old. Throughout 2023, RAA has provided daily open youth work services, which aim to encourage young people's socio-emotional development and community integration, as well as key competences development through non-formal education programmes. Romanian, English classes and digital skills classes are weekly provided, complemented by sport, arts & crafts, cooking activities or more complex workshops such as digital storytelling, civic engagement or health education. RAA reached over 600 adolescents and young refugees aged 13 to 25 through these activities and created a secure environment with an open youth hub approach.



Supporting social inclusion, RAA places a strong emphasis on linguistic integration, providing more than 300 hours of free English and Romanian language classes, along with Microsoft certified Digital Education courses. With a diverse offering of 270 non-formal education workshops, 60 outdoor recreational activities, and 175 open youth centre days, the Youth Hub evolved into a sanctuary for many youths, actively contributing to their personal development and self-confidence.

3. Adult empowerment

Recognizing the barriers in accessing healthcare services faced due to information gaps, RAA created [The Health Navigator project](#). It provides 10 online episodes in both Romanian and Ukrainian languages, offering guidance through the Romanian healthcare system. RAA social workers played a vital role in assisting parents with legal requirements and accessing necessary services.



Protection

Achievements and Impact

- Protection monitoring and counselling remain key activities by protection partners to ensure newly arrived refugees are informed of their rights and available services in Romania. In the light of the continuing drone attacks in the Odesa oblast, protection actors have maintained daily presence at the borders to assess the humanitarian needs of those arriving from Ukraine. In October, the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR) provided information and counselling remotely through its helplines to 224 refugees and supported 6,903 refugees from Ukraine on protection and integration at the border crossing points and in major urban centres. UNHCR responded to over 1,699 information requests (918 phone calls, 304 WhatsApp messages and 447 Telegram messages).
- On 25 and 26 October, CNRR and UNHCR conducted a capacity building workshop specifically designed for the General Inspectorate of the Border Police in Sibiu. The workshop aimed to enhance the understanding of the Border Police's roles in identifying individuals requiring protection, along with providing comprehensive insight into the related procedures for both temporary and international protection. A total of 43 participants, including representatives from the border police, General Inspectors of Immigration (GII), UNHCR, and CNRR, actively engaged in the workshop.
- Save the Children provided services to support 5,493 refugees from Ukraine at three border crossings and three transit points, with the establishment of integrated services and counselling centres in multiple locations including Bucharest, Constanța, Tulcea, Galați, Iași, Suceava, Baia Mare, Tg. Mureș, and Timișoara. The range of services provided encompassed informational and legal counselling, assistance with the accommodation process, facilitation in obtaining temporary protection permits, guidance in opening bank accounts, and help in acquiring the necessary certificates to access the government support program. Additionally, in the Botoșani county, 17 adults were the beneficiaries of an informative session titled "Refugee Rights under Romanian Law - Understanding the Impact of Prejudicial Behaviour on Vulnerable Individuals or Groups".
- On 2 October, UNHCR, jointly with the Metropolitan Agency for Sustainable Development Brasov and Terre des hommes (Tdh), inaugurated the new KATYA centre in Brasov for refugees from Ukraine and the local community. The centre gives continuity to the services that were provided since the onset of the crisis in Brasov. Around 40 people from local authorities and humanitarian organizations attended the inauguration of the centre that serves around 500 refugees from Ukraine living in and around the city. The centre is providing protection and integration services for refugees, such as counselling, mental health and psycho-social support, as well as enrolment for cash assistance.
- Ms. Natalia Burduja, the author of a Romanian language manual tailored for Ukrainian refugees, co-produced by UNHCR and CNRR, conducted book launch events in Iași, Constanța, and Galați on 5, 18 and 20 October, respectively. A total of 83 participants, including refugees, educators, local authorities, and representatives from humanitarian organizations attended these events. The primary objective of the manual is to assist Ukrainian refugees in developing their Romanian language skills, thereby facilitating their integration and inclusion within Romania. Prior to these events, the manual was initially launched in Suceava at the end of September, drawing a crowd of around 67 refugees and NGO representatives. The manual is available for free [online on CNRR's website](#).
- Tdh continued its collaborative efforts in Bucharest, Brașov, and Constanța, working in conjunction with its partner, the Civic Resource Centre. In October, Tdh started conducting activities in Baia Mare as well as in Suceava, along with its partners from the ROUA Community Centre and ROUA Info Hub. Tdh's multifaceted efforts encompassed the provision of adapted information, referrals, translation services,

- transportation to essential services, Individual Protection Assistance (IPA), MHPSS, and educational activities, targeting both children and adults. Collectively, Tdh interventions have supported 450 refugees.
- FONS, alongside its partners from Iași, Suceava, Galați, Bacău, and Bucharest, delivered essential basic and protection services to a total of 622 vulnerable refugees. These services were particularly aimed at individuals such as those with disabilities, the elderly, patients with chronic illnesses, as well as children, women, and girls facing precarious situations. Among the beneficiaries, 253 individuals received specialized protection services, including social support, administrative-legal aid, and rehabilitation services. Specifically, 68 persons with disabilities and 85 elderly individuals in vulnerable circumstances were provided with comprehensive assistance. To aid elderly individuals, single mothers, those with limited employment prospects, and persons unable to obtain disability certificates in Romania, FONS initiated a pilot program that integrates a cash support system with temporary housing and social protection services, thereby ensuring support until these individuals can establish a stable source of income within Romania. Moreover, in a bid to expedite the economic integration of Ukrainian refugees, FONS and its partners assisted 165 refugees in accessing governmental housing subsidies, while 78 individuals received guidance and mediation services to facilitate their entry into the Romanian job market. Additionally, 104 adults participated in Romanian language courses to aid their integration into the local community.
 - CNRR and UNHCR hosted the first national conference on the integration of refugees for 55 participants from national and local authorities, NGOs, UN agencies in Sinaia. The conference focused on the key socio-economic integration concerns of refugees, including access to education, access to healthcare, and access to employment, as well as the support and protection mechanisms available in Romania.
 - In October, UNHCR concluded its annual participatory assessment exercise with refugees from Ukraine. Overall, UNHCR, together with partners, conducted dedicated Focus Group Discussions (FGD) with 180 Ukrainian refugees (114 female/66 male) aged 9-79 across the country. Main issues raised among the older refugees included access to healthcare and economic inclusion, while the younger refugees' concerns focused on employment and obtaining documentation for work, professional trainings and social cohesion between refugees and the host community.
 - UNICEF initiated the [second round of the Social Cohesion Report](#), concentrating on the perceptions of host communities regarding refugees from Ukraine. The findings revealed a declining acceptance among Romanians toward individuals displaced by the international conflict in Ukraine. More people now perceive Ukrainian refugees as potential sources of economic and social challenges. The report also highlighted a diminishing interest among Romanians in the plight of those displaced by the conflict, coupled with a decrease in empathy and willingness to assist them. Moreover, the number of Romanians holding positive views of Ukrainians has also declined. Simultaneously, the report underscored an increasing social divide between Romanians and those displaced by the conflict in Ukraine, with a growing reluctance among Romanians to foster close relationships, including neighbourly connections, with the displaced individuals.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Protection partners noticed a significant increase of Ukrainians returning to Ukraine, but also renouncing temporary protection in Romania to seek employment, family reunification, and support in other EU Member States or countries offering temporary protection. Monitoring such movements will be crucial to calibrating assistance and implementing special assistance measures for the groups left behind: the elderly, single mothers, and unaccompanied children.
- Partners such as CNRR, FONS, Tdh, and PATRIR found that many vulnerable refugees did not meet the eligibility criteria for the housing support programme, leaving them without state support during challenging times. The persistent delay in payments from the government housing support program continues to be a critical issue affecting numerous refugees.
- The lack of emergency housing continues to put a strain on non-governmental shelters in Bucharest, Brașov, Galați, Constanța, and Suceava. Even as the number of newly arriving refugees remains relatively low, partners noted a slower response and smaller capacity of local authorities to offer emergency housing to those coming to Romania for the first time or following evictions.

- Providing language translation and interpretation in Ukrainian or Russian, thus facilitating the communication of the local authorities (ANOFM branches, General Directorate for Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC), social assistance directorates, hospitals etc.) with the refugees, remains crucial to ensuring access to various services, including disability recognition and employment counselling.
- Refugees with severe disabilities still face barriers in accessing social assistance due to the lack of a self-declared residence address unsupported by a rental contract. Additionally, limited budgetary capacity among local authorities further compounds these challenges.



Child Protection

Achievements and Impact

- As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen the national child protection system, the National Authority for the Protection of Children's Rights and Adoption (NAPCRA) reported that 2,437 Ukrainian children (1,248 girls and 1,189 boys) newly registered in Primero received child protection services during the month of October. Furthermore, according to additional data from NAPCRA, a total of 287 unaccompanied children (169 girls and 118 boys) were identified who also were provided with alternative care while another 20 children were reunified with their families.
- Also to support national systems, Save the Children provided a training on child protection in emergencies for 75 representatives from DGASPC, DAS, School Inspectorate, National Health Insurance Agency, Red Cross, AidRom in Timiș, Arad and Mures.
- Child protection actors continued to respond to identified risks and needs within the Ukrainian community across the country in key locations where refugees presently reside. Through their integrated hubs and counselling centres around Romania, Save the Children provided services to 1,624 Romanian children and 383 children and their families benefited from case management services. FONSS members provided non-formal education care services, crèche, socializing and leisure programs in the community for 201 children (32% of the population). ASSOC and Four Change provided protection and specific child protection services through available safe spaces in Baia Mare, Bucharest, Helmeu/Satu Mare, Negresti Oas, and Sighetu Marmatiei/Maramures to 178 new Ukrainian refugees (43 boys, 29 girls, 35 men and 71 women). To strengthen Ukrainian's children's knowledge of the Romanian language and integration and social cohesion aspects, World Vision (WV) continued to provide Romanian language classes. This month, 400 children participated and focused on reviewed basic concepts and learned about school supplies, Romanian neighbouring countries, position of objects in space, household objects and others.
- Terre des hommes (Tdh) continued its work in Bucharest, Brasov, Constanta, along with two new partners in Suceava and Baia Mare, through MHPSS sessions, educational activities, adapted information, referral and IPA. These interventions impacted 1,028 children residing across all five cities. Tdh mobile teams maintained their efforts across four permanent and semi-permanent centres, as well as within schools in Bucharest. The Resilience Innovation Facilities (RIFs) in Bucharest and Brasov remained dynamic hubs of activity, granting 121 children an avenue to explore the realms of 3D printing, vinyl cutters, and other tools, all complemented by a MHPSS component. In Constanta, Tdh's partner organization sustained their work in providing IPA, facilitating group MHPSS sessions, such as: adolescent empowerment, a mothers' support group, art therapy, physiotherapy, group therapy for children, school preparation, recreational activities and English language courses.
- During the month, WV introduced new standard operational procedures for its Happy Bubble educational centres, ensuring compliance with Romanian national laws governing the protection and advocacy of

children's rights. These updated procedures are anticipated to enhance the overall quality of services provided within WV's Happy Bubbles. A total of 650 children benefited from the integrated child protection, MHPSS and educational services offered at the Happy Bubbles. These services were specifically curated to enhance the children's sense of security, overall well-being, and active participation, while simultaneously facilitating their seamless integration into local schools and communities. To achieve these objectives, weekly therapeutic and protective activities are conducted across all centres. Additionally, monthly activities promoting child protection rights, Romanian language lessons held four times a week, and bi-monthly integration events organized in collaboration with local community representatives, including schools from all locations, further contribute to the fulfilment of these goals.

- To further address inclusion and social cohesion needs, WV joined the General Directorate for Social Assistance of the Bucharest Municipality to participate together in "Bazar de Cotroceni", a two-day local community engagement initiative where people residing in Cotroceni opened their homes/gardens to the public. This provided Romanian and Ukrainian children and adults to meet and enjoy time interacting with each other. A recreational area and arts and crafts workshops were organized for children and parents/caregivers and there were also seminars on important topics, such as healthy nutrition.
- To effectively tailor UNHCR's child protection programs to the specific requirements of Ukrainian refugee children in 2024, UNHCR and its partner Tdh conducted four focused group discussions in Bucharest. These discussions involved 26 Ukrainian boys and girls aged between 9 and 16, addressing topics such as education, social integration, safety, and security within Romania. While the majority of the children have been residing in Romania for over a year, only half of them are currently enrolled in Romanian schools. The other half either attend online Ukrainian schools or are not enrolled due to having completed ninth grade in Ukraine. During the discussions, the children raised concerns regarding instances of discrimination and bullying, expressing overall satisfaction with the available educational opportunities. However, they highlighted the need for more recreational activities, workshops, and events. Furthermore, Save the Children organized additional focus group discussions in Bucharest, Iași, Galati, and Suceava, providing 40 refugee children aged 12 to 17 with a platform to share their experiences concerning their overall well-being, safeguarding (including PSEAH, bullying and GBV), education, health, child protection, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) within Romania.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Ukrainian parents are exhibiting reluctance in integrating their children into the Romanian education system, primarily due to the complex and time-consuming procedures required for formal school attendance. This hesitation is impeding their access to the government assistance program. Furthermore, the limited availability of Romanian language classes and concerns regarding the structure and content of the Romanian school curriculum add to the challenges faced by these families.



Gender-Based Violence

Achievements and Impact

- On 26 October, Sensiblu Foundation (SF) organized the first roundtable on "Resilience, Adaptation, and Integration - Solidarity with refugees from Ukraine – United to prevent and respond to Gender-Based Violence (GBV)" in Cluj-Napoca. Representatives of the City Council, County Police Inspectorate (IJP), DGASPC, GII, County School Inspectorate (ISJ) and County Agency for Employment (AJOFM) have

provided insights on their role on the elimination of GBV in Romania focused on the refugee response. The events had a positive impact on further strengthening local ties and highlighting the state response.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- A noticeable gap exists in the awareness of GBV, particularly in terms of addressing sexual harassment within public spaces, which remains a critical concern for refugee communities.
- There is an identified need to reinforce the connections between protocols concerning Trafficking in Persons (TiP) and GBV. While preliminary discussions have commenced within the GBV sub-working group, it is crucial to prioritize training programs focused on the identification of TiP cases and the implementation of effective case management strategies. These initiatives are essential for enhancing the provision of relevant services tailored to the diverse needs prevalent within the community.



Education

Achievements and Impact

- The recent academic year of 2023-2024 has witnessed an additional 1,104 RCU enrolling in Romanian schools, contributing to a cumulative total of 28,766 officially recorded students within the Romanian education system. Of this total, 9,224 have acquired full pupil status, while more than 19,000 children and youths are engaging as audients/observers, transitioning into the school environment. This surge can be attributed to the Government's April 2023 reform, which now mandates the enrolment of Ukrainian refugee children into either Romanian schools or locally available non-formal education services to qualify for social benefits under the temporary protection scheme. Additionally, 71 education hubs, officially recognized by the Ministry of Education, have provided alternative or complementary learning opportunities, including the option to continue learning through the Ukrainian curriculum. These hubs have reportedly facilitated the education of an additional 10,336 RCU. While official data on the active participation of RCU within Romanian schools is pending, preliminary insights from various county school inspectorates suggest that approximately one third of the RCU attending Romanian schools have been maintaining regular attendance since the start of the new academic year. A considerable portion of children registered as audients are attending school intermittently, simultaneously participating in education hubs to enhance their proficiency in the Romanian language.
- Support continues to be provided in this context to ensure that all refugee children from Ukraine (RCU) can access quality education services and progressively integrate or transition to the Romanian education system, through diversified learning pathways and bridging modalities including or combining inclusion into Romanian schools, online learning, special classes and after-school activities offering learning support ('education hubs'), and facilitating increasingly access to Romanian language classes to support RCU's integration and transitioning to the national education system.
- In October, activities have particularly focused on following up on the 'back-to-school' campaign implemented in collaboration between RRP partners, the Ministry of Education, and County School Inspectorates (ISJs) encouraging all RCU to enrol with the Romanian education system, and supporting them to effectively participate and learn, with significant supply component targeting pupils (RCU and other vulnerable children in host communities), teachers and schools. This initiative has benefited about 43,000 children, 1,700 teachers/educators and 700 education units overall.
- 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. UNICEF and JRS Romania coordinate the Education Working Group in partnership with other UN sister agencies (IOM, World Bank, UNHCR), the Government of Romania

(including the Ministry of Education in particular), as well as NGOs and other development partners supporting the delivery of educational services. A number of discussions have also been initiated with national authorities on e.g. M&E systems and capacities, mutual recognition of studies, regulatory frameworks for the provision and certification of Romanian language courses delivered by local NGOs, and possible support mechanisms to facilitate the integration of Ukrainian refugee teachers in the Romanian education system.

- To support language education, UNICEF facilitated the procurement of an additional 20,000 multilingual learning support materials for young children (“ABC-ul limbii ucrainene/române”) and 20,000 multilingual conversation guides for adolescents and teachers (“Ghid de conversație român-ucrainean-englez”). Further, UNICEF prolonged its partnership with local NGOs to ensure continuity of education support services, e.g. with Timiș County Youth Foundation (FITT) in Timisoara (1 education hub and 1 youth hub), while supporting also enrolment of RCU in Romanian schools in collaboration with ISJs and the organization of Romanian language courses under the leadership of ISJs (e.g. in Timisoara, Cluj, Brasov, and Constanta).
- Save the Children Romania provided vital support to more than 700 children across 10 counties through comprehensive educational programs. These programs were conducted in eight schools situated in various locations including Bucharest, Constanta, Navodari, Galati, Iași, Tulcea, and Suceava. Additionally, assistance was offered through five educational centres and eight integrated service and counselling centres located in Bucharest, Galati, Iași, Maramures, Tulcea, Tg. Mures, Timisoara, and Suceava. The programs encompass a wide range of initiatives, including Romanian language classes, after-school activities, and various extracurricular engagements aimed at fostering school integration, diminishing language barriers, providing homework assistance, and extending financial aid for school supplies. Moreover, targeted activities within schools are designed to promote social cohesion and prevent instances of bullying. Parents received crucial information and guidance regarding school enrolment procedures, alongside assistance in completing mandatory forms.
- In October, World Vision's Education program supported around 700 children, offering preschool and after-school activities in eight social and educational centres (Happy Bubbles) across six locations: Bucharest, Suceava, Iași, Constanta, Cluj, and Valcea. These centres provide four hours of weekly Romanian language lessons to aid the integration of Ukrainian children and their caregivers into the local community. Equipped with necessary technology, the centres facilitate access to both formal Ukrainian and online Romanian educational activities. Additionally, World Vision assisted 60 refugee children to enrol at the Finish School in Bucharest, spanning preschool, primary, and secondary education.
- Tdh has focused on various educational initiatives, including afterschool programs in Brasov and Bucharest, alongside Resilience Innovation Facility (RIF) activities. Language classes were conducted in both Bucharest and Constanta. In October, 86 individuals received comprehensive information and guidance on education-related matters, 121 children actively engaged in RIF (STEM) activities, and 48 children participated in afterschool-type activities. Moreover, the RIFs maintained their involvement with 3D printing, vinyl cutters, and other tools, supplemented with a Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) component.
- The Four Change Association and the UTCB Transit Center for Refugees collectively provided social and educational assistance to 42 children, comprising 18 girls and 24 boys. This support encompassed non-formal education activities emphasizing remedial education, Ukrainian language and history lessons, Romanian language classes, as well as engaging initiatives such as theatre and music therapy. Additionally, through the UTCB Kindergarten, six RCU, consisting of three boys and three girls, were able to access essential preschool education services.
- In Sibiu, SUSINIMA has also initiated the ‘SIPRI Edu.Hub’ as a bridging programme to support the progressive integration of RCU in Romanian public schools, with additional language support for Ukrainian children and adults. The program covers remedial education, homework assistance, and extracurricular activities, promoting holistic child development. Notably, 127 children have enrolled in this new programme in October.
- A FONPC study report entitled “Access and Integration of Ukrainian Refugee Children in the Romanian Education System” was released on 18 October, providing information on the integration of displaced

children from Ukraine in the Romanian education system and formulating recommendations to contribute to the development of effective educational policies and practices, so that RCU can ultimately access adequate educational services, according to their needs and those of their families.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Persistent language barriers leading to limited access to Romanian language courses and adequate learning support materials, hindering effective participation in school for Ukrainian refugee children enrolled in the Romanian education system.
- Limited opportunities for Ukrainian refugee children and youth to engage in extracurricular and recreational activities alongside their Romanian peers, thus hindering social cohesion and effective integration.
- Shortage of available spaces in both urban and rural creches and kindergartens for children under 5 years old, posing challenges for parents seeking employment opportunities.
- Continued necessity for Romanian language courses for both children and adults to ensure seamless social integration and a smooth transition into the national education system. These courses require sustained provision throughout the school year in coordination with County School Inspectorates.
- The expressed need for cultural mediators (Ukrainian-speaking educators) in schools to facilitate effective communication among parents, children, and teachers, thereby supporting the successful integration of Ukrainian refugee children into the Romanian school system and fostering social cohesion within school communities.
- A call for clearer procedures regarding the certification and mutual recognition of studies, particularly with the ongoing bilateral agreement between Romania and Ukraine, which is currently in the process of ratification in Romania.



Health and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- During this reporting period, WHO cultural mediators operating across Bucharest, Cluj, Brasov and Tg Mures delivered counselling sessions to a total of 282 beneficiaries and provided guidance and support in accessing care 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 cultural mediators are Ukrainian nationals with a background in medicine or psychology. They work directly with Ukrainian refugees to deliver individual and group psychosocial support, organise therapy sessions and provide guidance to refugees on navigating the health system and accessing healthcare.
- Building national capacity to support the health of refugees and the host population represents an operational focus for WHO. During this reporting period, WHO cultural mediators in Brasov delivered 2 seminars for staff of the UNHCR supported KATYA organisation on 'Stress, Trauma and Tools for Recovery', providing 16 participants with the tools required to support the mental health of refugees.
- Access to primary care remains a priority for Ukrainian refugees. WHO continues to provide financial and administrative support to family medicine clinics in Bucharest, Brasov, Suceava and Galati to incentivise their engagement in the refugee healthcare program. In October, WHO supported family doctors to deliver 361 consultations to refugees from Ukraine. In parallel, WHO county coordinators continued to work with local authorities to map refugee inclusive family doctors and other service providers. 20 family doctors working with refugees in Sibiu were mapped and their contact details added to the already

comprehensive list of health services available to Ukrainians on the Service Advisor Platform throughout October.

- WHO midwives provide essential maternal services for refugee women and additionally support Ukrainian refugees to receive further specialised care. As of September 2023, WHO midwives operate in Galati, Constanta and Bucharest. In October, WHO midwives provided over 50 midwifery consultations to refugees from Ukraine.
- Save the Children Romania reached over 2,722 children (including 1,483 girls and 1,239 boys) and 642 adults with MHPSS activities, including counselling sessions and therapy workshops, via the integrated services and counselling centres and transit points across Bucharest, Galati, Iasi, Suceava, Constanța, Baia Mare, Timisoara, Mures, Brasov and Tulcea.
- In Galati, local teams from Save the Children conducted a workshop on bullying for adolescents, while in Suceava, both children and adults participated in a sewing workshop. Trained psychologists delivered parenting workshops in Bucharest, Baia Mare, Tulcea, and Galati. Additionally, a training on Psychological First Aid was provided to 75 representatives from local authorities in Timisoara, Targu Mures, and Arad.
- Save the Children Romania organized 11 informative sessions for 57 Ukrainian refugees in Bucharest, Suceava, Iasi, and Brasov. The sessions covered essential topics such as healthcare services available to refugees in Romania, new-born care and first aid, child vaccination, HPV vaccination, breastfeeding, postpartum depression, reproductive health, and sexually transmitted diseases. Attendees were encouraged to suggest topics of interest and actively participate in Q&A sessions during the events. Cultural and medical mediators provided additional assistance by accompanying beneficiaries to specialized medical facilities for examinations, aiding in the registration process with family doctors, and offering medical translations for documents such as prescriptions and medical letters. They also facilitated communication between beneficiaries and medical staff. Furthermore, 562 individual counselling sessions were conducted to help refugees access necessary medical services. Additionally, one medical voucher was distributed among the beneficiaries.
- The Romanian National Alliance for Rare Diseases (RONARD) facilitated the access to medical and social services for 12 refugees suffering from cancer and rare disease through interpretation support and administrative case management.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- According to the initial assessment of the Romania Multi-Sector Needs Assessment, which was released on 6 October 2023:
 - 35 per cent of households have a chronically ill member, and 39 per cent of household members require support for mental health and psychosocial services (MHPSS).
 - The primary obstacles to accessing primary or secondary national health services in Romania are as follows: lack of knowledge about the procedures (20 per cent), language barriers (19 per cent), difficulties in securing appointments (17 per cent), and financial constraints (15 per cent). The concern arises from the fact that 15 per cent of respondents reported financial inability, particularly alarming as Ukrainian refugees with temporary protection status have been granted the same level of free healthcare access as Romanian citizens.
 - The key impediments for Ukrainian refugees in obtaining the necessary MHPSS support include lack of awareness regarding available resources (43 per cent), time constraints (32 per cent), language barriers (15 per cent), safety concerns (13.5 per cent) and the long distance of services or high cost of transportation to the services (12.5 per cent).



Basic Needs

Achievements and Impact

- Since the beginning of 2023, 6,527 refugees from Ukraine have been given temporary accommodation in State facilities. The number of spaces currently available in Romania is 36,169.
- UNHCR provided core-relief items (CRIs), such as hygiene kits and bedding to 101 refugees in Constanța and Galați, with needs assessments conducted in Constanța and Năvodari for upcoming CRI distributions. A total of 643 individuals were reached in Constanta, facilitated by the Civic Resource Center, World Vision, and the Jesuit Refugee Service. UNHCR also distributed over 800 CRIs, including bedding, hygiene kits, and thermoses to 223 vulnerable refugees in Galați, Suceava, and Timiș counties. Additionally, in Medias, approximately 300 Non-Food Items (NFIs), including clothing, quilts, and towels, were distributed to 64 refugees at the UKR hub Medias. UNHCR, along with its partners, distributed 1,600 CRIs, comprising bedding, clothing, hygiene kits, thermoses, and bottled water to 400 vulnerable refugees across Arad, Bihor, Galați, Sibiu, Suceava, Timiș, and Tulcea counties. In Suceava, a total of 421 individuals (166 females, 77 males, and 178 children) were reached.
- Save the Children Romania remained dedicated to assisting refugees from Ukraine, distributing 3,815 NFIs, including hygiene and sanitary kits, across seven locations (Botosani, Bucharest, Galati, Iasi, Suceava, Maramures, Timiș).
- UNHCR provided cash assistance to 2,326 vulnerable individuals. The UNHCR cash programme aims to support a total of 9,000 vulnerable forcibly displaced persons by the end of 2023. So far, a total of 4,151 vulnerable persons have received aid in the form of three-month instalments, while 2,326 vulnerable forcibly displaced persons have received aid for two-month instalments. The registration for the Programme concluded on 31 October 2023.
- Save the Children Romania extended financial support to 423 individuals in response to the specific needs of the beneficiaries seeking assistance. A total of 633 vouchers were distributed across various sectors, with a breakdown as follows:
 - Educational Support: 141 Ukrainian children were provided with vouchers valued at 400 RON each. This support is essential in ensuring these children have access to crucial educational resources and opportunities, thereby contributing to their overall development and future prospects.
 - Basic Needs Support: Addressing the fundamental requirements of 282 individuals, 492 vouchers, each worth 200 RON, were distributed. This form of assistance can be accessed multiple times based on individual needs, rendering it flexible and tailored to specific circumstances. The support covers a diverse range of essentials, including food, clothing, and other necessities, ultimately enhancing the overall well-being of the beneficiaries.
- World Vision offered cash assistance to Ukrainian refugee families with children between the ages of 0 and 17, specifically targeting the most vulnerable households. The aid was provided as a one-time payment of 559 RON per child, benefitting 224 children. The programme, which aimed to support 1,500 beneficiaries, concluded in October 2023. Additionally, World Vision extended Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) to eligible recipients, providing 568 RON per month for each household member, for a total of three months. In October, 133 unique beneficiaries received the MPCA. The program, designed to assist 1,000 beneficiaries, also concluded in October 2023.
- Good Neighbours Japan provided MPCA to 910 individuals, each receiving 568 RON.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- During the CRI distributions in Buzău, refugees emphasized the pressing need for winter clothing, particularly for children who had outgrown their winter attire from the previous year. UNHCR organized focus group discussions in both Buzău and Brăila to gain deeper insights into the challenges and needs of the refugees. The financial burden of renting accommodations emerged as a significant concern

among the refugees. Additionally, all participants emphasized the critical importance of receiving winter CRIs.



Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion

Achievements and Impact

- HEKS EPER continued to support refugee job seekers with accessing employment by offering support services such as job counselling, inclusion in language courses, vocational training, and linkages to employers, facilitating 14 successful hires this month. On 3 October, HEKS EPER also held a workshop with 11 attendees focused on how to navigate available job boards and effectively apply for open positions.
- FONSS and its partners provided job counselling and mediation services to 78 adults and enrolled 104 adults in Romanian language courses with the aim to support their inclusion in the Romanian labour market.
- On 27 October, the Government Employment Agency organized national job fairs in various locations, including Bucharest, Brasov and Galati. UNHCR, Ateliere Fara Frontiere (AFF), Project Voiajor Association (Jobs4Ukraine) and CNRR were present in several locations to offer translation services, counselling, introductions to employers, CV-building assistance and other support to the refugee job seekers who attended the fairs.
- Ateliere Fara Frontiere (AFF) held four workshops in Bucharest, with a total of 32 refugees participating, on the topic of “how to start-up a business in Romania” covering legal aspects, taxation laws, and guidance on developing business ideas. In preparation for the national job fairs on 27 October, AFF also organized five “job readiness” workshops, supporting a total of 24 refugees with preparing their CVs and how to present themselves to employers.
- Project Voiajor Association continued to link refugee job seekers to employers through their online job platform (www.jobs4ukr.com) and offline activities. So far this year, 2,105 job seekers (+105 this month) and 150 employers (+10 this month) have signed up to the platform, facilitating 465 job “matches” (+22 this month) in Romania. On 25 October, Project Voiajor hosted a workshop on the topic of “entrepreneurship” with 15 attendees, covering legal, financial and market aspects of how to set up a business in Romania.
- Save the Children Romania in partnership with Project Voiajor Association started a joint project to improve the quality of life of vulnerable people in Ukraine and Romania by facilitating access to jobs through training and job matching, counselling and providing childcare while parents are at work. Currently, they have 43 adults in the assessment process.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- HEKS EPER highlighted that many refugees’ sign-up for Romanian language courses, but that it is challenging to maintain a high retention rate. The course engagement appears to lower over time due to various reasons including competing priorities and work commitments. HEKS EPER has tried to combat this challenge by ensuring a flexible course methodology, which includes both online and face-to-face classes available both during the day and in the evening after working-hours.

Cross-Cutting Priorities



Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

Achievements and Impact

- On 24 October, the Refugee Resource and Support Hub (RSH) jointly with the Romania PSEA Network organised a "Roundtable on SEA risks faced by LGBTIQ+ refugees in Romania and safeguarding at the workplace", which was attended by 50 UN, NGO and CSO staff both in person and online. The RSH presented its report on "Safeguarding LGBTIQ+ refugees in Eastern Europe" and the Pocket Guide: Safeguarding LGBTIQ+ individuals working in NGOs and CSOs and the participants engaged in a very interesting discussion during a panel discussion with representatives from national and international organisations in Romania on "reflections, lessons learnt, and good practices implemented by organizations to safeguard LGBTIQ+ individuals.
- Save the Children provided Safeguarding and PSEA training for 40 representatives of key child protection actors and institutions providing medical services from Isaccea and Moldova. The trainings focused on understanding the safeguarding methodology and policy implementation and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. Additionally, 25 Save the Children staff were trained focusing on risks and mitigation measures.
- Tdh conducted 4 refresher training sessions for 42 of its staff in Bucharest on Safeguarding, including PSEA.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is a need to continue mainstreaming safeguarding and PSEA aspects towards local actors, especially child protection actors through specialized training.



Youth and Adolescents

Achievements and Impact

- In October, 52 teenagers and young individuals actively participated in the Youth Club at the Save the Children counselling and integrated services centres in Iasi and Galati. These Youth Clubs serve as safe and welcoming spaces for Ukrainian teenagers and youth from the communities, encouraging their engagement in matters that directly impact them. The clubs promote the exploration of solutions through positive changes, the acquisition of new skills, and the pursuit of their interests and passions. The program is tailored based on continuous consultations with the participants. By fostering connections among young people and between the youth and the community, ideas, or shared ideals, the initiative aims to show that they are not alone. It also provides them with inspirational sources they can relate to and trustworthy groups/organizations. This approach helps prevent the risks of social isolation, discrimination, or social exclusion. Additionally, regular psychoeducation workshops were conducted in Timisoara, focusing on addressing issues like peer pressure, self-esteem, and academic stress, specifically tailored for adolescent girls.

- Junior Achievement (JA) Romania and Duke of Edinburgh International Award Foundation (The Award) continued their skills-building and social inclusion activities. JA has deployed bilingual (Ukrainian and Romanian) JA e-learning contents to more than 740 facilitators within the Romanian school system and sent JA educational materials in print and digital format to 20 teachers working with 47 Ukrainian (audient) students. They have capacitated 5 Ukrainian facilitators in Suceava, Timișoara and Constanța who work with 80 Ukrainian children and youth to organize JA Career Readiness workshops and Job Shadow Weeks and 12 Ukrainian teachers in Bucharest who work with 265 Ukrainian students to deliver JA educational activities for all age groups.
- The Award held interactive outreach activities in Cluj-Napoca and Suceava involving more than 30 Ukrainian and Romanian young people and parents, as well as trained 18 mentors in Cluj-Napoca, who will guide Ukrainian and Romanian young people to engage in the volunteering, skills-building and sports programme designed in the Stand by Me project.
- On the Mental Health International Day, UNICEF launched a U-Report chatbot on Emotional Regulation aimed at helping Ukrainian adolescents handle stress and negative emotions.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is a critical need for increased resource allocation toward youth and adolescent projects, alongside the establishment of safe spaces dedicated to this demographic.
- Addressing the distinct needs of youth and adolescents as a specific age group requires collaborative efforts between refugee hubs and specialists, including youth workers, MHPSS experts, GBV advocates, specialists in PSEA and language learning experts. It is essential to involve Ukrainian youth and adolescents in the design, monitoring, and evaluation of programmes tailored for this demographic, particularly within the current school year.
- The existing structural disparities between the Romanian and Ukrainian high-school curricula pose a significant challenge that impacts the integration of adolescents into the school system and, consequently, their integration into the host communities.

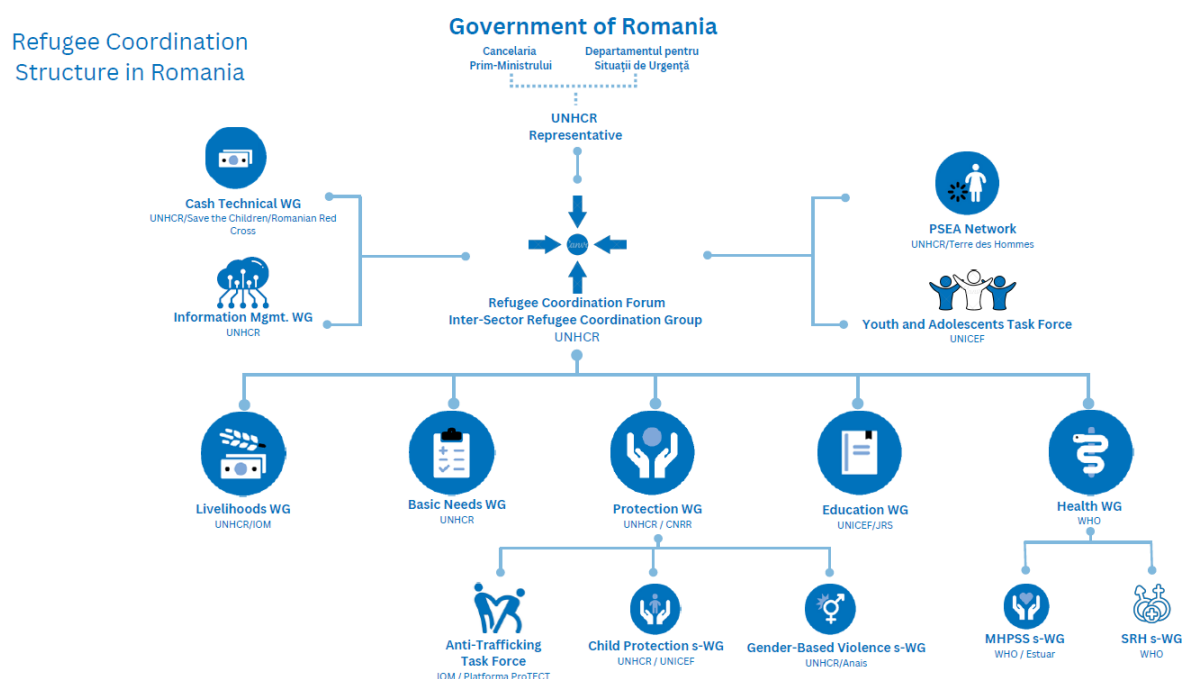


Trafficking in Persons

Achievements and Impact

- On 17 October 2023, eLiberare conducted a live Instagram educational session on anti-trafficking. The session focused on the services provided by the Support centre for Ukrainian refugees in Bucharest, emphasizing free educational offerings and activities for both children and adults. A total of 746 participants joined the live session.
- NGO members of the Romanian Anti-Human Trafficking ProTECT Platform participated in a conference at the Parliament Palace, sponsored by the Spanish Embassy on 5 October, titled: “Joining efforts to combat trafficking in human beings: best practices in comprehensive transnational cooperation”. The event attracted widespread media coverage and was attended by over 100 stakeholders in the field of combatting human trafficking, including UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM and various Ambassadors and foreign embassy representatives.
- eLiberare and IOM hosted an extraordinary hybrid-format meeting on 31 October with representatives from the Republic of Moldova’s Anti-trafficking Task Force, as well as representatives from the Romanian government involved in anti-trafficking efforts, to share information and their efforts related to combating human trafficking during the Ukraine refugee crisis.

Working in partnership



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LINKS

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