



Romania

July 2024

Since the start of the international armed conflict in Ukraine which has forced some 6 million people to flee their homes to seek safety, protection, and assistance across Europe, more than 5.9 million border crossings into Romania have been recorded. The Government and partners including civil society, the private sector, volunteers, and international organisations 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 2024 Romania RRP is aligned with the Government National Plan of Measures (NPM) for the protection and socio-economic inclusion of refugees from Ukraine.

UNHCR leads the Inter-Agency platform comprising of 37 appealing partners implementing humanitarian activities for the refugees from Ukraine.

KEY FIGURES*

5.99 M

individual refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe.

6.7 M

border crossings from Ukraine and Moldova into Romania.

163,045

obtained temporary protection in Romania (as of 30 June).

70

percent of refugees are women and children.

ROMANIA REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN (RRP) FOR THE UKRAINE SITUATION**

USD 117 M

Romania financial requirements

USD 34,3 M

Funding received against the Appeal (Q2)

37

Appealing Partners in the Romania response

*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](#) for a breakdown of sectoral response priorities and requirements and the [Refugee Funding Tracker](#) for RRP funding information.

Operational context

Since 24 February 2022, nearly 6 million people from Ukraine have sought refuge across Europe. As of 28 July 2024, border police recorded some 6.7 million border crossings from Ukraine and Moldova into Romania. 170,407 Ukrainians and 1,636 Third Country Nationals obtained temporary protection in Romania, which provides access to healthcare, education, and the labour market, representing a total increase of 4,096 compared to the end of June.

The Inter-Agency Coordination Unit finalised its assessment of the Q2 funding situation of the RRP. Out of \$117 million appealed for by 37 partners, only \$34,4 million (29 per cent) had been received at the end of Q2 with particularly severe funding gaps identified for livelihood, gender-based violence (GBV), child protection and education

RRP partner Parentis – MHPSS program for Ukrainian refugees and the local population.

Since April 2022, Parentis has developed and implemented a comprehensive Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) program to assist Ukrainian refugees and the local population in Iași. This initiative has addressed the needs of over 7,000 individuals since its inception, including more than 1,000 people this year alone. The program is supported by a highly specialized team of professionals, including psychologists, social workers, legal advisors, MHPSS-trained interpreters, and cultural mediators.



The core focus of Parentis' MHPSS program is fostering inclusion by ensuring that all support services cater to both refugees and local vulnerable populations. This holistic approach encompasses psychological and psychosocial services, childcare counselling, family planning, and mental health awareness campaigns. The program's activities include psychotherapy, psychoeducational sessions, and psychosocial activities aimed at enhancing emotional well-being, social interaction, and resilience among participants.

One example of the program's impact is the story of Ana, a single mother of a terminally ill son. Despite financial hardships and language barriers, Ana found critical resources and support through Parentis. The program enabled her to access necessary medical and psychological support, empowering her to start anew and continue advocating for her son's health. Ana's story is a testament to the program's effectiveness in providing not only immediate aid but also fostering long-term resilience and hope.

Parentis goal is to provide the best support services to vulnerable populations, regardless of nationality, while fostering a sense of community and peer-to-peer support. By empowering individuals to build on existing support systems and resources, Parentis aims to enhance the resilience of those in need and ensure they have the space to build a strong, supportive community.

Through these efforts, Parentis significantly contributes to the integration and well-being of both refugees and the local community, promoting empathy, solidarity, and a sense of belonging for all participants.

sectors. Detailed findings are illustrated in the Inter-Agency [narrative report](#) and supporting [infographic](#). Complementary to the findings, the Inter-Agency Coordination Unit conducted a [Programme Criticality Survey](#) with RRP partners to assess the current level of funding and its effect on programming, identify RRP sectors that are affected by the current reduced funding levels, identify activities that will not or may not take place due to lack of funding, and re-prioritise programming across sectors based on the funding levels and identify the most affected counties.

On 11 July, the Refugee Inclusion Working Group met in Suceava. A total of 18 participants from authorities and NGOs engaged in active discussion on improving referral pathways and procedures. Those present also expressed a need for collective efforts to improve access to education for refugee children from Ukraine.

On 30 July, Inter-Agency sector leads met with a delegation from the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova, consisting of Senior Officials from the Inspectorate General for Migration, Border Police, Inspectorate General for Emergency Situation, and Inspectorate for Operational Management accompanied the Romanian Department for Emergency Situations (DSU), and a team from UNHCR Moldova to discuss contingency planning in the two countries.



Protection

Achievements and Impact

- On 28 June, the Romanian government issued Emergency Ordinance No. 96/2024 “regarding the provision of humanitarian support and assistance by the Romanian state to foreign citizens or stateless persons in special situations, coming from the area of the armed conflict in Ukraine”. The ordinance follows extensive advocacy by UNHCR and civil society partners to ensure continued access of refugees and stateless persons to state assistance. Assistance provided through the order is available only to newly arrived refugees within their first three months in Romania, if they received temporary protection after 1 July, as well as previous beneficiaries identified as belonging to a vulnerable categories and residents of collective centres. In addition, those assisted under the previous program may continue to have access to some social benefits. New beneficiaries can access a lump-sum payment for accommodation and at the end of a maximum of three months can apply to social benefits. Members of the Protection Working Group have been working with the government at meetings, legal reviews, and working groups to clarify the terms in the ordinance, such as establishing the definitions of family, minors, unaccompanied minors, and individuals accompanying persons with disabilities. The Protection Working Group conducted a comparative review of emergency ordinance with previous ordinance to ensure that all members of the group were informed of the changes. Additionally, the Working Group aimed to highlight various advocacy points related to the new regulatory framework, with the aim of standardising and aligning these points across different sectors. This initiative was intended to facilitate a clearer understanding of the changes and to promote a unified approach in addressing the new regulations.
- Many Protection Working Group members contributed to the development an information package on the support provided by Romania under the new ordinance. This included creating materials on rights to social benefits, employment, healthcare, unemployment benefits, and education. These materials were submitted to the relevant ministries for review to ensure accurate and consistent information is provided to refugees by both governmental and civil society.
- In July, the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR) continued direct support services for beneficiaries through various channels. This included providing personalized counselling via their call centre to a total of 342 individuals. Additionally, they offered direct protection services to 465 people, ensuring their well-being. Furthermore, CNRR conducted counselling sessions at border entry points, assisting 52 third-country nationals and 1,815 Ukrainian individuals. This comprehensive approach reflects their commitment to offering both immediate and specialized support to those in need.
- In July, Terre des Hommes continued its valuable work across several locations in Romania, including Bucharest, Braşov, Constanţa in collaboration with their partner the Civic Resource Centre, and Baia Mare in partnership

with City Makers. Their efforts encompassed a range of activities designed to provide support and development. This included individual and group mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) sessions, intercultural education classes, and life-skills development programs. Additionally, they offered adapted information, referrals, case management, and individual protection assistance. In terms of beneficiary outreach, a total of 189 adults participated in individual mental health consultations. Furthermore, 98 adults received tailored information and support. Of these, 40 individuals were referred to health, social welfare, and legal services or received assistance through Terre des Hommes' case management system. This approach underscores their dedication to providing targeted and effective support to those in need.

- During the reporting period, NGO 4Change provided counselling and information to Ukrainian refugees hosted at the Edmond Nicolau refugee transit centre in Bucharest. They were informed about Romanian legislative changes regarding support to Ukrainian refugees including their rights, obligations, benefits and entitlements to which they have access. 4 Change will assist refugees to submit the required documents required to access the new government assistance programme for the most vulnerable refugees.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The government decision related to the emergency ordinance was placed under public consultation but has not yet been approved. Consequently, beneficiaries of temporary protection were unable to apply for the lump sum payments for July, as the decision is still under review and awaiting final approval from the government.
- There is need for awareness-raising on refugee-related matters, especially aimed at raising cultural awareness and combatting xenophobic narratives against refugees.
- Beneficiaries of the old assistance program that concluded in June have reported ongoing delays in receiving their lump-sum payments, with many still waiting for months. This issue persists even though a new ordinance has been enacted in July made especially to allocate additional funds to ISU for the payment of these lump sums.
- People at-risk among TP holders, including seniors, individuals with disabilities, and single-parent households, are still struggling to access their rights crucial for their well-being.



Child Protection

Achievements and Impact

- On 31 July, the Child Protection Sub-Working Group meeting was held at which UNHCR presented the changes regarding Unaccompanied and Separated Children included in the new Emergency Ordinance, followed by the presentation of a mapping exercise on the child protection system in Romania and the involvement of different bodies and institutions promoting children's rights. The Inter-Agency Coordination Unit presented the child protection-related findings of the [Programme Criticality Survey](#) giving insights on the funding perspectives of child protection actors and support upcoming planning exercises, followed by a thematic discussion on case management and exchange of good practices and lessons learned.
- UNICEF and UNHCR coordinated and exchanged information regarding support to county and local authorities to improve coordination and enhance access to services for refugee children and families. They continued to monitor the situation of unaccompanied and separated children and those evacuated from Ukrainian residential institutions. Currently, there are 111 unaccompanied children in the national child protection system, and an additional 44 children staying in private accommodation.
- On 22 July, UNHCR supported a coordination meeting between the General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC) in Braşov and the DGASPC in Prahova to share lessons learned while dealing with cases of returns of unaccompanied children residing in care facilities to Ukraine. Discussions showcased the various stages and safeguards ensured throughout the process, as well as stakeholders involved, and differences in some proceedings requiring further harmonisation between both counties. While there remains some room for

improvement, both bodies agreed that the principle of placing the best interest of the child must be at the cornerstone of any decision affecting their lives.

- Sensiblu together with UNHCR held focus group discussions as part of a participatory assessment with Ukrainian refugees. Targeting children and adolescent boys, the assessment aims to provide updated insights into the needs, priorities, and concerns of refugees in Romania, informing UNHCR's planned interventions for 2025. The discussions covered key thematic areas, including child protection, and social cohesion, integration, and inclusion.
- In July, the 119 unique national telephone number for cases of child abuse was successfully integrated into the official structure and staffing scheme of DGASPC in Vaslui County in partnership with UNICEF and with the support of state funding. UNICEF has provided financial and technical support for the development of the service in Romania since June 2023.
- Save the Children assisted 752 children from Ukraine across Bucharest, Baia Mare, Galați, Iași, Suceava, Timișoara, and Tulcea with services including social evaluation, counselling, and referrals. The implementation of the Safe Families methodology was completed in four cities, fostering improved child-parent communication and creating a safe space for sharing experiences. The Suceava mobile team conducted an information session for eight children in Fălticeni on children's rights and safety in public spaces.
- During the reporting period, Terre des Hommes continued its work in Bucharest, Baia Mare, Brașov, and Constanța, providing individual and group MHPSS sessions, intercultural and life skills activities, information, referrals, individual protection assistance, and case management. The Resilience Innovation Facilities (RIF) in Bucharest, Brașov, and Constanța provided support to 177 children with digital skills activities. Overall, 553 children participated in MHPSS sessions and intercultural learning, 289 children engaged in MHPSS activities in the RIFs, 48 children received tailored information and referrals to services, and 128 children were informed about their rights and how to access them in Romania.
- World Vision reached over 500 Ukrainian refugee children and approximately 40 parents and caregivers through services at the "Happy Bubbles" Socio-Educational Centres in Bucharest, Cluj, Constanța, Iași, Suceava, and Râmnicu Vâlcea. The programme included weekly therapeutic sessions and monthly discussions on child protection issues. Additionally, bi-monthly integration events with local communities, schools, and NGOs brought together over 243 Romanian and Ukrainian children to foster cross-cultural friendships and promote social-educational inclusion.
- NGO 4Change provided counselling and social information on child rights and legislative changes, ensuring beneficiaries received support for necessary documentation for state allowances.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is a need to continue providing free spaces for socialisation, leisure and recreational activities, arts and crafts, psychosocial support, increased awareness of children's rights, and education programmes.
- There is a need to advocate for stable funding sources for child protection services aiming at providing long-term solutions to Ukrainian refugee children and their families.



Gender-Based Violence

Achievements and Impact

- Gender-Based Violence was one of the core areas covered during the four focus group discussions held by Sensiblu Foundation and UNHCR as part of a participatory assessment exercise with Ukrainian forcibly displaced populations. During the discussions, older women, adult women, and adolescent girls and boys provided updated insights into the needs, priorities, and concerns of refugees in Romania. The discussions covered key thematic areas, including access to services GBV and social cohesion.

- In July, Sensiblu Foundation provided support to Ukrainian refugees through 46 group sessions attended by 650 individuals in Bucharest, Baia Mare, Constanța, Râmnicu Vâlcea, Sighetu Marmației, and Suceava. The sessions focused on delivering psychosocial support and specialized information, significantly enhancing participants' emotional well-being and social connections. Additionally, the "Safety is Everyone's Right" campaign advanced awareness on violence prevention in Constanța and Bistrița. Sensiblu also provided 60 hours of individual counselling to 22 persons, including 12 new clients and 4 receiving case management.
- In July, NGO Necuvinte conducted four group psychological sessions at the Edmond Nicolau refugee transit centre in Bucharest supporting 26 Ukrainian adolescents. The sessions addressed topics related to emotional well-being, risks of violence, abuse, and bullying, helping the adolescents to understand and manage aggression and trauma, and provided them with resources to handle situations of violence, abuse, or harassment.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is need to expand the support for women survivors of gender-based violence who face uncertainty or lack information regarding access and requirements regarding government support programs. This is especially true for women with additional vulnerabilities, namely, those with disabilities, or from marginalized communities—to ensure their effective economic and social integration.



Education

Achievements and Impact

- In July, efforts focused on providing technical support and feedback to the Government of Romania for the normative acts following on from Emergency Ordinance No. 96/2024, and with the development of new communication and information materials.
- RRP partners efforts focused on local and national coordination, on facilitating access to Romanian language courses, extracurricular activities, MHPSS and social cohesion activities. RRP partners focused technical support and advocacy efforts on national authorities, including support for the registration and transition of refugee children to Romanian schools in time for the next academic year.
- As the school year ended in June and children began their summer holiday, new data on enrolment and participation in the national education system is expected to be available in September.
- During the summer support continues to be provided to ensure that all refugee children from Ukraine can access quality education services and progressively integrate or transition to the Romanian education system.
- UNICEF engaged with national, county, and local authorities and NGOs to ensure continuity of education support services during the summer school vacation, including through partnership agreements to help prolong the operations of education hubs at least until the beginning of the next academic year and to advocate for the organization of additional Romanian language courses under the leadership of county school inspectorates to meet growing demand.
- Through dedicated support extended to the Bucharest Municipal School Inspectorate (ISMB) and the Education Desk at Romexpo, an additional 376 school enrolment requests were registered for Bucharest in July. For enrolment requests submitted to ISMB during the summer period, the distribution decisions will be issued and communicated starting with the first week of September, when the new council will meet to issue the decision for the new school year 2024-2025. This information is also displayed on the ISMB website, on the "[Next to Ukraine](#)" page.
- UNICEF's partnership agreements with the British Council, FITT, HoltIS, JRS Romania, PATRIR, Step-by-Step, and Sus Inima continued to help deliver complementary and alternative education services and supporting parents in cities hosting large refugee communities, including through hubs, benefiting several thousands of Ukrainian refugee children with continued support towards progressive integration in Romanian schools and a

stronger focus on Romanian language courses. Furthermore, UNICEF together with NGO Step-by-Step supported the operations of 23 play and learning and parenting hubs for children in early education. Through UNICEF supported partnerships, children were registered and benefited of the activities implemented, including 115 children on extracurricular activities, 60 children on language courses, and 5 children in Play Learning and Parenting at Primo hubs.

- JRS provided assistance at Romexpo and Pipera hub, and supported summer activities developed in other educational hubs in Bucharest, Braşov, and Constanţa.
- JRS implemented various activities in Constanţa and Galaţi including education for both children and adults. In Constanţa, JRS started a new project financed by the Stiintescu Fund, aimed at providing learning support to all migrant children. A summer school with 50 children was held in Galaţi with activities involving children from various migrant communities, covering all children in need of education and play. In Bucharest, the Urban Summer School for 80 Ukrainian children with face-to-face courses was attended by 80 children. The provision of online Romanian classes was organized under the Entreculturas project “Support to Educational Activities within the One Proposal”; more than 1,300 children attended a four-month long free online Romanian language course, targeting integration within Romanian schools, with the support of six Romanian teachers.
- World Vision Romania implemented educational activities in nine “Happy Bubbles” socio-educational centres, located in Bucharest, Cluj, Constanţa, Iaşi, Râmnicu Vâlcea, and Suceava for over 600 children. Following the conclusion of the academic year, the “Happy Bubbles” programme was adapted as a summer school during the summer holidays. This involved the expansion of non-formal educational activities and the establishment of summer clubs dedicated to debate, public speaking, and museum visits. Romanian and English lessons were delivered along with arts and crafts, and sports activities. The non-formal education curriculum was designed to equip children of all ages with the skills they need to navigate life successfully, providing children with the opportunity to explore their inner world, develop their imagination, and to socialise. Developing logical and adaptable thinking, communication, and explanation skills is beneficial for academic success and creativity, it cultivates perseverance, attention to detail and develops critical thinking. Activities for improving communication skills for children were also implemented. The socio-educators have developed exercises that focus on both verbal and non-verbal communication. These exercises helped to improve communication skills and encourages teamwork. Additionally, learning a foreign language can train the brain, improve memory, concentration, and reaction speed, and influence the development of intelligence, including the ability to think and apply acquired knowledge in complex and unusual situations.
- Terre des Hommes provided individual and group MHPSS sessions, intercultural and life-skills development, adapted information, referral, a case management and individual protection assistance in Bucharest and Braşov, as well as in Constanţa in partnership with the Civic Recourse Centre, and in Baia Mare with City Makers. In Braşov, the focus was on several aspects including RIF activities, group psychosocial support sessions, intercultural and life-skills development, case management and individual protection assistance. During July, 97 children benefited from intercultural learning and life skills activities in the RIFs, centres, and schools.
- CNRR provided counselling on access to education in Bucharest, Constanţa, Braşov, Galaţi, Iaşi, and Suceava, including beneficiaries with the school and kindergarten enrolment procedure, procedure of recognition and equivalence of studies and diplomas, translation and legalisation of documents, referral to Romanian language courses, other educational activities.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- During the summer holidays, non-formal educational activities are needed to keep the children connected, to further build and maintain the social cohesion and to support working parents.
- There remain several challenges related to the efforts to fully integrate refugee children in the Romanian education system, especially as new enrolments continue to increase. These challenges include limited capacity for places, difficulties in the transition from audient to pupil status, insufficient teachers' preparedness to accommodate refugees, and continuing language barriers. There is also some reluctance to enrol in the Romanian education system due to concerns about the recognition of studies and maintaining Ukrainian language proficiency, coupled with the prospects of an imminent return, which have led parents to prefer the

Ukrainian curriculum online. Based on the declarations of some Ukrainian parents, children are not motivated to attend classes as students in the Romanian education system.

- For young children, there is a shortage of places in creches and kindergartens in big cities and rural areas. This also affects many single parents who are unable to work because they cannot leave their children unattended.
- There is a need to increase and promote the opportunities to access Romanian language courses and adequate learning support materials through county school inspectorates and NGOs, Romanian language classes for adults, psychological counselling for children, summer educational activities, and additional places in early years education.
- There remain several issues and questions related to the enrolment procedures for the next academic year, both at national and local levels. Parents and caregivers will need to receive adequate and timely information to consider the best options for their children, such as through a “back to school” campaign. Newly arrived refugees in Romania need more information on the school enrolment procedure, as well as other benefits of the Romanian educational system.
- NGOs face challenges in maintaining financial support from donors and the uncertainty of sustaining the support to educational hubs.
- During July, there was a slight increase in the number of Ukrainian youth enrolling in university, with most interest shown in English language bachelor programs, particularly in Bucharest.
- It remains unclear how refugee families and the academic progress of the children will be affected by Emergency Ordinance No. 96/2024,



Health and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- On 9 July, the director of the national health insurance service, Dr. Valeria Herdea, confirmed that the platform for registering Ukrainian refugees was again functional, following an extensive update and testing. More than 200 Ukrainians had been (re)registered on the system by the end of July, greatly enhancing the Ukrainians’ access to free-of-charge primary health services.
- The WHO Country Office in Romania has overseen the translation of key global health and mental health guidelines into Romanian to support national systems and humanitarian responses. This includes the IASC guidelines on MHPSS, Suicide Prevention, and Disability Inclusion. The translated guidelines will strengthen national capacity to provide MHPS support to vulnerable communities including refugees.
- WHO, in collaboration with the National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men (ANES) and the East Europe Institute for Reproductive Health (EEIRH), conducted two trainings for 53 doctors and health managers from Constanța and Cluj. The trainings focused on improving skills in identifying survivors, providing first-line support, addressing clinical care for sexual and intimate partner violence, and understanding the multidisciplinary team’s role and are expected to enhance health system capacity to support both Ukrainian and Romanian GBV survivors.
- Access to primary care remains a priority for Ukrainian refugees in Romania. To address this need, WHO provides financial and administrative support to selected family medicine clinics in Bucharest, Brașov, Cluj, Constanța, Galați, and Suceava. In July, WHO-supported family doctors provided 252 consultations to Ukrainians, including 44 essential vaccination consultations.
- WHO established a health translation hotline providing Ukrainians in Romania with free over the phone interpretation for medical consultations. Language barriers represent one of the greatest barriers to healthcare access for Ukrainians resulting in strong uptake of the service. In July, the hotline provided 111 translation services with a total duration of some 26 hours – a significant increase compared to 78 calls in June with the expectation that uptake will continue to increase as awareness of the service grows.

- Psychological support remains a crucial health need for Ukrainian refugees in Romania. In July, WHO cultural mediators in Bucharest and Constanța delivered 57 individual psychosocial support, and 4 art and music therapy sessions, the latter attended by 60 Ukrainians. These activities have been highly effective in addressing stress and anxiety and promoting community cohesion.
- Significant information gaps persist for refugees seeking healthcare services, impacting their ability to navigate the Romanian health system and access care. In July, WHO cultural mediators offered personalised advice and guidance to six Ukrainians on how to access primary and specialist care, and a further 12 persons were assisted with scheduling doctor's appointments.
- In July 2024, Save the Children reached 1,378 children and 224 adults through MHPSS activities in counselling centres and transit points in 10 locations in Bucharest, Baia Mare, Constanța, Galați, Iași, Năvodari, Sighetu Marmatei, Suceava, Timișoara, and Tulcea. 827 children and 117 adults participated in psychosocial activities, including arts and movement-based games, theatre-based activities, adolescent clubs, chess clubs, dance classes, cooking workshops, and activities assisted by animals. Individual and group psychological counselling sessions were provided to 35 children and 76 adults in Bucharest, Iași, Năvodari, Suceava, and Timișoara. 292 children participated in a series of summer camps aimed at fostering cohesion between Ukrainian and Romanian children and adolescents.
- During July, Terre des Hommes held individual and group MHPSS sessions, inter-cultural and life skills activities, adapted information, referral, individual protection assistance and case management in Bucharest and Brașov, as well as in Constanța together with its partner Civic Resource Centre, and in Baia Mare with City Makers. In total, 523 children benefited of individual or group MHPSS sessions or attending activities focused on psychosocial development. 289 children participated in MHPSS activities in the Resilience Innovation Facilities, 128 children were helped with tailored information on children's rights and how to access in Romania. A further 189 adults benefited from individual mental health consultations or group support activities and participated in MHPSS community events alongside with their children. During those activities, 100 adults were supported with tailored information.



Basic Needs

Achievements and Impact

- In July, AidRom assisted 20 vulnerable Ukrainian refugee families in Arad County and two families from Timiș County with Core Relief Items (CRIs) based on needs assessments. AidRom in partnership with the Food Bank Timișoara (Banca Regională pentru alimente Timișoara) held weekly food distributions at the AidRom Multifunctional Centre providing 52 families (140 persons) with food packages. 144 vulnerable Ukrainian refugees residing in Arad, Bihor, and Timiș counties received social assistance vouchers which can be used to buy food, non-food items, and medication. On 2 July, AidRom conducted an outreach session at Ineu, in Arad county, where the Directorate for Social Assistance registered 21 refugees from Ukraine. A needs assessment was conducted, followed by the provision of social counselling, legal advisory services and CRIs.
- World Vision concluded its project to improve food security and hygiene for Ukrainian households, reaching more than 20,500 refugees with 8,464 hygiene kits and 8,464 food vouchers each worth \$50 (RON 230) since September 2023. Thanks to additional funding received from the project sponsor, Disasters Emergency Committee, a consortium of 15 UK-based charities, World Vision was also able to distribute 2,412 family food kits to 2,412 Ukrainian refugees in partnership with the General Directorate for Social Assistance of Bucharest Municipality (DGASMB) at the Romexpo social store. Over June and July, some 6,000 refugees from Ukraine benefitted from this support at the Romexpo hub.
- In July, UNHCR provided cash assistance almost 850 forcibly displaced persons with specific needs and 121 older refugees from Ukraine following a needs assessment conducted in June. UNHCR also released a second

instalment of cash assistance for around 1,000 persons, and a third instalment for 880 persons who were previously assessed and determined eligible for cash assistance.

- On 19 July, UNHCR's Field Office in Suceava met with the Directorate for Social Assistance in Fălticeni, Suceava county, to discuss points of common interest, including protection and support to the Ukrainian refugee community living in the town, of which some 80 per cent are Roma. Non-food items were identified as an immediate need for which UNHCR is assessing next steps towards addressing the needs.
- On 25 July, UNHCR met with the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations (IGSU) in Suceava to address aspects of emergency preparedness and accommodation, particularly the availability of medium and long-term shelter for vulnerable refugees.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR and partners AidRom, DAS Bistrita, DAS Piatra Neamt, Botosani County Youth Foundation (FJPT), City Makers, and Sensiblu Foundation distributed nearly 9,400 Core Relief Items (CRIs), including thermoses, sleeping bags, bedding sets, hygiene kits, towels, baby diapers, and adult and children's clothing to 4,900 refugees living in Arad, Bistrita-Nasaud, Botosani, Braşov, Buzau, Constanţa, Galaţi, Maramures, Neamt, Sibiu, Suceava, and Timis counties. So far in 2024, UNHCR has distributed 59,241 CRIs to 32,493 refugees in Romania.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- UNHCR advocated with DSU to find solutions to address the impending eviction of refugees from the Hotel Granata collective centre in Cluj-Napoca. UNHCR provided telephone counselling to the affected refugees. While the majority were able to find private accommodation elsewhere, four families returned to Ukraine, including two oncology patients. Many families expressed concern regarding their ability to pay rent for the coming month as they have already spent their savings. UNHCR is continuing to monitor the situation of the affected households.
- Currently, the main issues faced by vulnerable refugees hosted in collective centres relate to recent legislative changes and the planned conclusion of the assistance program which has been extended to 30 September, with many having to find suitable alternative accommodation. At present, it is unclear the municipality will keep the centre open for eligible refugees beyond the current extended period.
- Despite the new Government Emergency Ordinance, World Vision estimates that there will be gaps in the provision of integration support related to the basic needs of Ukrainian refugees.



Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR, in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce in Iaşi, and together with NGO partners World Vision and CNRR organized a workshop focused on entrepreneurship and economic inclusion. The event brought together representatives from the local government, civic society, refugee community, the GI Group recruitment agency, the Banca Comercială Română (BCR) and other stakeholders including Posh Academy, a training centre and a provider of beauty services, and NESsT, a catalyst for social enterprises in emerging markets. The 41 participants discussed existing opportunities, as well as ways to access further governmental support, the Chamber of Commerce emphasising its openness in supporting refugees to set up businesses through coaching and counselling and offered its headquarters as a potential registered office for refugee's businesses. The event created stronger synergies between the NGOs and private sector participants, with the follow-up of further collaboration in addressing the needs of the local refugee community, through common projects and referrals.
- Between 29-31 July, World Vision in collaboration with Chamber of Commerce and Industry Constanţa organized a series of hybrid workshops attended by a total of 97 participants, on the topic of choosing a form of legal presence in Romania. The workshops aimed to inform participants on opening and functioning of businesses in

Romania, as well as offering basic knowledge for starting their own businesses, in such a way as to contribute to their economic inclusion and self-reliance.

Cross-Cutting Priorities



Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

Achievements and Impact

- On 26 July UNHCR facilitated PSEA training in Constanța with 13 nominated focal points from the Civic Resource Centre, Life for Ukraine, RO-UA Novapolis, Save the Children, and Sensiblu. The training aims to provide a safe and respectful environment free from SEA by capacity-building focal points and providing them with the necessary tools to prevent and respond to SEA. The training included discussions on the roles and responsibilities of the focal points, an action plan, as well as follow-up on implementation of community engagement activities.
- A total of 5 organizations have expressed an interest to endorse the Inter-Agency Standard Operational Procedures (SOP) for the Referral of PSEA cases. The PSEA network will work with the other RRP appealing partners to promote the further endorsement of the SOPs within the coming weeks.



Trafficking in Persons

Achievements and Impact

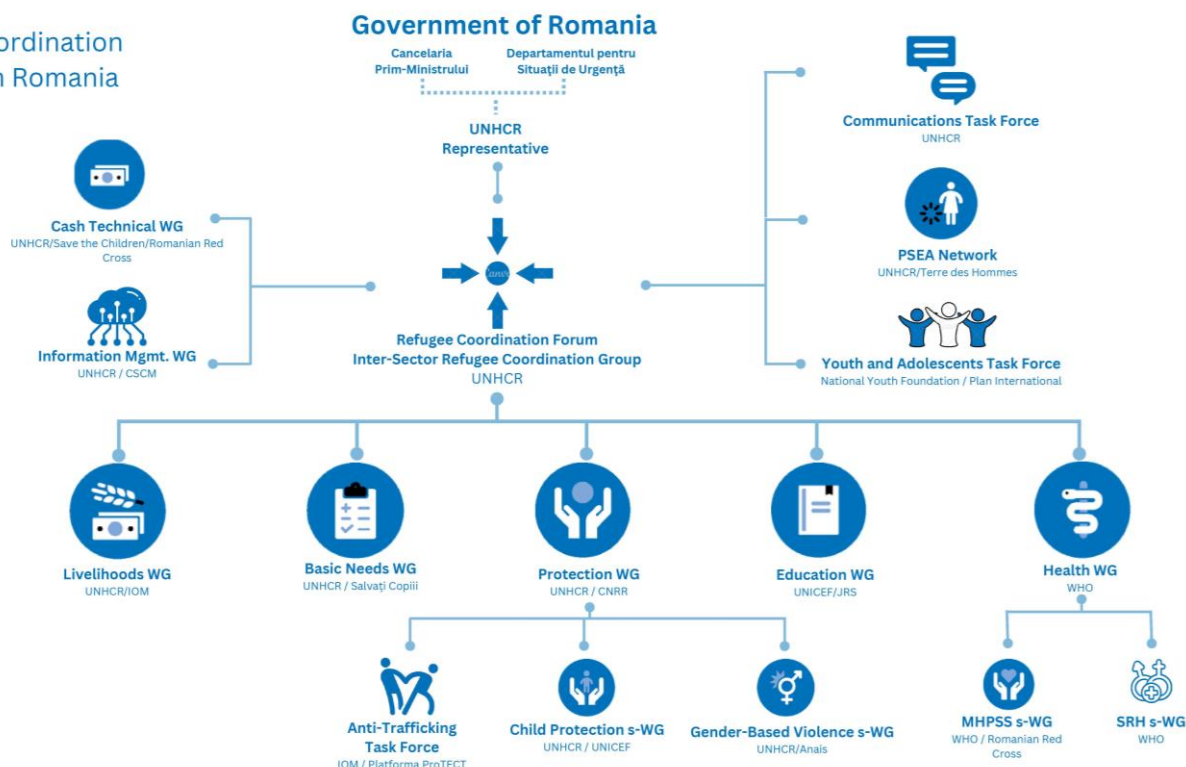
- IOM took part in the judging of the Students for a United and Resilient Europe (SURE) competition through the American Councils for International Education. The SURE program empowers youth to promote social cohesion in communities where refugees from Ukraine reside by pushing back against disinformation. SURE aims to ensure peaceful coexistence for Ukrainian refugees in Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The Crisis Response Anti Trafficking Task Force (CRATTF) conducted a mapping exercise to identify needs and remaining gaps. The exercise identified the following areas of concern:
 - Labour exploitation and lack of information regarding employee rights increasing to risks.
 - The impact of Romania's accession to the Schengen area through air or seaports and the increased ease of transporting victims of trafficking to western Europe.
 - There is need for increasing information regarding social and humanitarian services, better advertised, and promoted on official sources to avoid extortion schemes.
 - Due to increased use of internet and social media platforms there are heightened risks to Ukrainian refugees (particularly children and youth) of online grooming coercion and exploitation.

Working in partnership

Refugee Coordination Structure in Romania



In 2024, the Inter-Agency platform comprises of the following 37 appealing partners implementing humanitarian activities in Romania for refugees from Ukraine:

ActionAid International | Action Contre la Faim | Asociația Moașelor Independente | CNRR | CORE | eLiberare | FONSS | Four Change | Good Neighbours Japan | Habitat for Humanity | HEKS/EPER | HIAS | IOM | Jesuit Refugee Service | Migrant Integration Centre Brașov | National Youth Foundation | Necuvinte | Novapolis | ParentIS | Project Voyager | PATRIR | Plan International | Roma Just | Romanian Angel Appeal | Save the Children | SECS | Sensiblu Foundation | Sera | Sus Inima | Terre des Hommes | Tineri pentru Tineri | UNESCO | UNFPA | UNICEF | UNHCR | WHO | World Vision

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LINKS

Regional data portal – Romania Page – Ukraine Situation RRP – Refugee Funding Tracker