



# Romania

October 2024

Since the start of the international armed conflict in Ukraine which has forced more than 6 million people to flee their homes to seek safety, protection, and assistance across Europe, of which more than 173,000 have obtained temporary protection in Romania. 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.

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## KEY FIGURES\*

**6.19 M**

individual refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe (as of 15 October).

**175,331**

obtained temporary protection in Romania (as of 31 October)

**67**

percent of temporary protection holders in Romania are women and children.

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

**USD 117 M**

Romania financial requirements

**USD 44,4 M**

Funding received against the Appeal (Q3)

**37**

Appealing Partners in the Romania response

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\*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, more than 6 million people from Ukraine have sought refuge across Europe. As of 31 October 2024, the Romanian General Inspectorate for Immigration (GII) reported that 175,331 Ukrainians and third country nationals obtained temporary protection in Romania, which provides access to healthcare, education, and the labour market.

On 18 October 2024, the Inter-Agency Coordination Unit held a Donor Meetup Event in Bucharest in support of RRP partners in their work with the Romanian host communities that welcome refugees, and with refugees from Ukraine. The event took place under the auspices of the Chancellery of the Prime Minister and was co-hosted by UNHCR, the Embassy of France, the Embassy of the United States of America, and the European Commission Representation in Romania. Over 120 participants from the government, embassies, international organisations, the private sector, and civil society attended the event. Following remarks made by Romanian authorities, Ambassadors, and the UNHCR Representative, there followed a networking session in a marketplace format where 29 RRP partners had the opportunity to exchange their programming priorities for host communities and refugees with embassies and the private sector.



Speakers at the Inter-Agency Donor Meetup Event which took place at the Nord Events Centre by Globalworth on 18 October. Photo: UNHCR

The Inter-Agency Coordination Unit finalised its assessment of the Q3 funding situation of the RRP. Out of \$117 million appealed for by 37 partners, only \$44,4 million (38 per cent) had been received at the end of Q3 with particularly severe funding gaps identified for basic needs, livelihood, gender-based violence (GBV), child protection and education sectors. Detailed findings are illustrated in the Inter-Agency accompanying [infographic](#).

**2025-2026 RRP partner YMCA Romania – education, public health, and livelihoods and socioeconomic inclusion services.**

*YMCA Romania is an appealing partner for the 2025-2026 Refugee Response Plan delivering programmes in Maramureş county in the areas of education, public health, and livelihoods and socioeconomic inclusion such as afterschool programmes and camps for children, social activities for older persons, employment support programmes, Romanian language classes, and parenting classes.*

*During the summer, YMCA Romania delivered Harmony Camp 3.0 bringing together young people from Romania, Ukraine, and the Republic of Moldova offering them the opportunity to participate in activities aimed at developing their skills, fostering human and intercultural connections, and guiding them in physical, mental, and spiritual health. The camp took place in Sat-Şugatag with 55 participants aged between 14 and 18, among them refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Ukraine.*



*A particular emphasis was placed on improving the well-being of these vulnerable groups, ensuring they felt supported and integrated into the broader community. The main themes of the camp were interpersonal and leadership skills development, encouraging teamwork in diverse groups, youth engagement in the community, civic participation, sustainability and environmental protection, as well as human rights and peace promotion. The program was carefully designed to combine outdoor physical activities with educational sessions to promote a healthy lifestyle and encourage active participation.*

*The camp's activities were structured following the principles of non-formal education and U.S.-specific camp standards, including workshops, debates, reflection moments, sports challenges, obstacle courses, and traditional camp rituals such as bonfires and songs. During the camp, participants were provided with continuous support of camp counsellors. These counsellors played a key role in ensuring the well-being of the participants, particularly refugees and IDPs, by promoting their active involvement in camp activities. In addition to camp counsellors, the activities were facilitated by youth workers, camp staff from the United States, and experienced Romanian youth skilled in organizing and implementing camp programs.*

*During its three editions, Camp Harmony served the needs of 109 young people, including refugees and IDPs, providing them with the opportunity to develop new skills, enrich their personal growth and find new ways to engage with their peers and communities. 16-year-old, Artem originally from Verkhovyna in Ukraine said, "I loved the activities and inspiring leaders here. Thank you to everyone who made this possible for another year! Camp Harmony is vital for peace building, uniting campers from diverse backgrounds who teach us understanding and cooperation. Thank you for this amazing opportunity!"*



## Protection

### Achievements and Impact

- Protection partners continued to focus their efforts on ensuring that Ukrainian refugees can access both the new lump sum program and social assistance in line with Emergency Ordinance No. 96/2024 “regarding the granting 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”. On 9 October, an information sharing session for more than 50 Ukrainian refugees living in Constanța on modalities and procedures for granting the Romanian state’s assistance and implementation of Emergency Ordinance No. 96/2024 was organized by UNHCR together with the Civic Resource Centre, the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR), Sensiblu Foundation, World Vision Romania, and Constanța Prefecture, the Directorate for Social Assistance (DAS), the Directorate General for Social Assistance (DGAS), the General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC), the county school inspectorate and the National Employment Agency (AJOFM). Refugee leaders also participated in the session committing to ensuring further dissemination of the information and clarifications received. During the session, different types of benefits for newly arrived and long-term refugees were discussed in detail covering school benefits, child allowance, support for new arrivals, accommodation, the minimum inclusion income, social benefits for people with disabilities, older persons aged over 65, employment, and unemployment benefits. A similar session was organized in Năvodari on 10 October which also benefited from the support of Save the Children, CNRR, local authorities and GII. Similarly, on 24 October, CNRR, JRS Romania, UNHCR, WHO, together with the Directorate for Social Assistance and County Payments and Inspections Agencies from Brăila and Galați conducted an awareness session focused on child allowances and lump sum assistance for around 30 Ukrainian refugees residing in Brăila.
- In October, Save the Children held a session on the dissemination of best practices focused on working with refugees at a counselling hub in Suceava. The session was attended by Save the Children staff responsible for social assistance through their Ukraine response program, representatives from GII - the regional centre for accommodation and procedures for asylum seekers (CRCPSA) in Rădăuți, and the Suceava Directorate of Social Assistance. A representative from GII’s integration department presented the responsibilities of GII in collaborating with refugees, including those with disabilities. Relevant legislation was discussed, along with the institutions that GII partners with to ensure refugees have access to their legal rights. The different types of residence permits were clarified, and specific cases and situations were analysed, highlighting the need for collaboration and an understanding of the existing limitations in the intervention process. The representatives from the Directorate of Social Assistance emphasized the changes brought about by Emergency Ordinance No. 96/2024 regarding assistance provided to refugees with disabilities, and the issues faced when submitting their applications. Problems encountered by people assisted by Save the Children in their dealings with other local authorities and potential solutions were also discussed.
- Save the Children provided services to 1,543 children and 2,328 adults through counselling hubs and integration centres in Bucharest, Baia Mare, Galați, Iași, Sighetu Marmăției, Șomcuta Mare, Suceava, Timișoara, and Tulcea. Those assisted received guidance from Save the Children on obtaining financial assistance and rights, including help with completing and submitting applications for child benefits. They also received support in accessing benefits for children enrolled in the Romanian education system, including assistance with scholarship applications, social vouchers, school supplies, and aid for single-parent families. Support was also given for daycare and school enrolment, and for identifying and registering with family doctors.
- On 10-11 October, CNRR held a National Conference on Integration, covering both the situation of holders of temporary protection and of other forms of international protection, be it refugee status or subsidiary protection. The conference was attended by 60 professionals and covered the fields of education, employment, healthcare, social services, and benefits. With access to healthcare remaining one of the most pressing challenges for holders

of temporary protection, the Ministry of Health requested a summary of the related panel discussions to enable follow up.

- On 16 October, the Roma Education Fund and UNHCR held an awareness raising session on cultural awareness and integration paths for refugees from the Roma community as part of on-going efforts to expand community engagement in Romania. The session provided the 23 participants with tools to help them tackle cultural myths, the identification and management of unconscious biases, and to overcome communication barriers. The session was framed within the context of several initiatives aimed at promoting the protection of persons with specific needs and an understanding of host environment and culture.
- On 30-31 October, UNHCR ran a two-day training for 18 staff from CNRR on assisting asylum-seekers with accessing fair asylum procedures. The training focused on the work of the legal counsellors in Romania's six reception centres and aimed at strengthening knowledge and skills and providing a space for exchange of good practices. Participants highlighted as some of the main challenges faced by asylum-seekers such as access to timely information, especially for those staying outside of reception centres, lack of specialization of ex officio lawyers who are called to defend rejected asylum-seekers, insufficient funding to cover this legal assistance for all cases that have been rejected, lack of specialized judges as well as procedural flaws in judicial proceedings, for example related to difficulties with accessing interpretation services. Participants exchanged good practices on addressing of the identified challenges and agreed to try and apply these also in other locations.
- During October, Terre des Hommes delivered individual and group MHPSS sessions, intercultural classes and life-skills development, information provision and individual case management in Bucharest and Braşov, as well as in Constanţa together with its partner the Civic Resource Centre, and in Baia Mare with City Makers. In Braşov, Terre des Hommes focused on Resilience Innovation Facility (RIF) activities giving access to creative activities to children, group psychosocial support sessions, intercultural and life-skills development, case management and individual protection assistance. 257 adults received individual mental health consultations or group support activities and participated in mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) community events together with their children. 168 adults were supported with tailored information of which 47 were referred to health, social welfare, and legal services, or are supported through Terre des Hommes' case management.
- CNRR provided 369 counselling sessions through its call centre, 1,412 counselling sessions throughout the country and 2,345 counselling and informational sessions at the border on access to territory and protection.
- Throughout October, ADPARE continued to offer specialized counselling and assistance to vulnerable Ukrainian citizens both at their counselling centre and accommodation facilities in Bucharest.
- On 4 October, eLiberare together with representatives of the PROTECT platform hosted IOM and representatives of the Swiss Contribution Fund to discuss about the current needs in the field of counter trafficking in persons and potential support to be provided in immediate future.
- On 7 October, the IOM Romania Head of Office together with the Counter Trafficking Focal point met with representatives of the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA). The discussion focused mostly on the need to enhance the protection and assistance provided for victims of trafficking and on the increasing numbers of labour exploitation cases especially among the foreign citizens.
- On 18 October, IOM Romania Head of Office gave a presentation at an event hosted by ANITP on EU Anti-Trafficking Day. IOM Romania was also present at a roundtable discussion organised at the Romanian Parliament to discuss about the prevention and combatting of human trafficking.
- On 28 October, IOM Romania's Counter Trafficking Focal Point participated at a meeting hosted by the Romanian Government on organizing the working groups for the implementation of the national strategy against trafficking in human beings. Together with GII, and under the overall supervision of the Romanian Government, IOM Romania will facilitate working groups on the protection of foreigners in Romania, with focus on reducing the risks associated with labour migration. The first meeting will be held by the end of the year.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Difficulties continue to be reported regarding inconsistent practices in providing social assistance.
- There is a lack of instructions for disability evaluation commissions regarding the issuance of certificates for temporary protection holders.



## Child Protection

### Achievements and Impact

- On October 23, 2024, a working meeting in Timișoara brought together 23 representatives from local and county authorities, NGOs, and UNHCR to discuss "Protection of Children's Rights" under Emergency Ordinance No. 96/2024 for Ukrainian refugee support. The meeting aimed to identify refugee needs, share experiences, and develop solutions to improve access to support services, education, and healthcare. Save the Children presented its "Analysis of the Situation and Needs of Ukrainian Families in Romania" and outlined its crisis response in the western region. Participants agreed to coordinate efforts and implement pilot services to facilitate the integration of refugee children and families into the community.
- NGO eLiberare, in collaboration with the National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of the Child and Adoption (ANPDCA) and the National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons (ANITP), with support from UNICEF Romania, developed the [Practical Guide for Identifying and Referring Cases of Child Trafficking](#). The guide was officially launched on 30 October. Approximately 100 professionals from seven DGASPC branches received in-person training, and an additional 250 professionals participated in three online webinars.
- UNHCR and UNICEF, in their capacity as co-chairs of the as part of the Child Protection Sub-Working Group, held a meeting to set sectoral RRP priorities for the next two years (2025-2026). The discussion focused on key areas such as services for refugee children, capacity building, and emergency preparedness. The group aims to prioritize enhancing access to services, continuing MHPSS activities, improving child participation, and strengthening coordination efforts, together with capacity-building efforts. A strong focus is placed on providing inclusive support for both Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian refugees, particularly in areas of integration and protection.
- Terre des Hommes organized a conference on the "Protection of the Rights of Refugee and Migrant Children in Romania – Challenges and Solutions" in Bucharest. The event brought together 50 participants, including key stakeholders such as representatives from civil society organizations and national and local child protection agencies, to address the urgent issues surrounding the safeguarding of refugee and migrant children's rights. UNHCR led a session on standards for child protection in refugee movements, while the Bucharest Bar Association discussed implementing the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights to support these children. Other sessions focused on providing integrated services for migrant children, ensuring temporary protection rights, and the role of NGOs in complementing government interventions. Major challenges identified included a lack of interpretation services for local child authorities and decreasing resources, underscoring the need for improved coordination and sustainable support to ensure the welfare and safety of migrant and refugee children, including unaccompanied and separated children.
- From 30 October until 1 November, UNHCR collaborated with the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) in conducting a training session on "Working with Asylum-Seeking Children" in Bucharest attended by 20 staff from GII aimed at enhancing participants' skills and knowledge to effectively support children within the asylum process. The session began with an overview of children's experiences in the asylum process, fostering group discussions on the unique challenges faced by professionals working with this vulnerable population. It then explored the rights and safeguards for asylum-seeking children, emphasizing their vulnerabilities and the concept of intersectionality through relevant case studies. A presentation by UNHCR Romania highlighted forms of persecution that particularly affect children and stressed the importance of promoting their active involvement in asylum procedures. The training also focused on communication techniques tailored to working with children, incorporating practical exercises and role-play activities to promote empathy and understanding.
- During October, Save the Children provided services (social evaluation and counselling, internal and external referrals) to 1,543 children and 2,328 adults from Ukraine at counselling centres in Bucharest, Baia Mare, Galați, Iași, Suceava, Timișoara, and Tulcea. In October, a total of 365 adults and 278 children were newly registered for services at Save the Children's counselling centres.

- To support vulnerable families in Alba Iulia, Bacău, Cluj, Piatra Neamț, and Sighișoara, Save the Children's mobile teams conducted social assessments to identify persons with specific needs. In addition, they distributed school supply backpacks and vouchers, reducing financial burdens and ensuring children have essential materials for their education as the school year began. In Iași, the Safe Families program resumed to strengthen parent-child communication through targeted sessions for children, parents, and mixed groups. Focusing on child development and positive parenting techniques, the program aims to prevent violence and abuse.
- In October, Terre des Hommes continued provision of individual and group MHPSS sessions, intercultural and life skills activities, tailored information, referrals, individual protection assistance, and case management in Bucharest, Brașov, Constanța (with partner the Civic Resource Centre), and Baia Mare (with City Makers).
- At Terre des Hommes' Resilience Innovation Facilities (RIFs) safe, creative hubs in Bucharest, Brașov, and Constanța, 102 children engaged in 3D printing, vinyl cutting, and other digital skills activities, supported by MHPSS. In Brașov, the team provided intercultural and life skills activities, RIF sessions, group MHPSS, case management, and individual protection assistance.
- In total, Terre des Hommes provided 623 children with individual or group MHPSS sessions, as well as intercultural learning and life skills lessons; 225 children participated in MHPSS activities at the RIFs, including 102 children who participated in digital skills activities; 60 children were supported with tailored information and were referred to health, social welfare and legal services, or were supported through case management; and 142 children were helped with tailored information on children's rights.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is a need for improved coordination among agencies and sustainable funding to maintain and expand services for refugee and migrant children, especially as resources are decreasing.
- Many families face uncertainty about next steps and integration, as winter is coming, and the conflict intensifies affecting the critical infrastructure in Ukraine.



## Gender-Based Violence

### Achievements and Impact

- On 29 October, UNHCR met with representatives from the National Agency for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men (ANES) to strengthen joint efforts in combating gender-based violence (GBV) in Romania. The collaboration will prioritize validating GBV case management SOPs, launching comprehensive GBV awareness campaigns, and conducting multidisciplinary trainings to mainstream GBV response across sectors. ANES will support UNHCR in co-leading the GBV Sub-Working Group as of January 2025.
- On 1 October, the GBV Case Management Task Force, co-chaired by UNFPA and ANES, and part of the GBV Sub-Working Group, held a meeting focused on the status of the national SOPs for GBV Case Management and involved discussions on future steps alongside representatives from Sensiblu Foundation, WHO, and EEIRH. Participants collectively acknowledged the necessity for ongoing efforts to operationalize the SOPs, with a validation workshop scheduled for the end of the year and training sessions planned for next year.
- On 17 October, Sensiblu Foundation held a collaborative roundtable with local authorities in Suceava to enhance GBV prevention and response for refugees from Ukraine. The event brought together 36 stakeholders, including public authorities involved in preventing and addressing violence, as well as representatives from non-governmental organizations, and provided a platform for in-depth discussions on the solutions for the challenges faced by refugees in accessing support and protection against GBV.
- On 18, 19 and 26 October, UNHCR and Sensiblu Foundation held three empowerment through self-defence sessions in Baia Mare and Suceava for 57 participants from the Ukrainian community. The event aimed to raise

awareness on protection against GBV and teach participants useful techniques when facing dangerous situations or inter-personal safety risk, boosting their confidence, and gaining the empowerment to act in situations of violence.

- On October 20, Sensiblu Foundation, participated in the annual "Together for Women's Safety" march taking place in Bucharest, underscoring the urgent need to address sexual violence in Romania. This flagship event, organized by local organizations and marking its tenth year, brought together survivors, advocates, and supporters to raise awareness about sexual violence - a sensitive and often taboo issue that disproportionately affects women and girls. Advocates called for stronger legislative protections and increased accountability to support survivors and ensure justice for perpetrators.
- During the reporting period, Sensiblu Foundation supported refugees from Ukraine through 43 group sessions attended by 642 people in Bucharest, Baia Mare, Constanța, Râmnicu Vâlcea, and Suceava. These sessions focused on delivering psychosocial support and specialized information, significantly enhancing participants' emotional well-being and capacity to prevent risk situations. The "Safety is Everyone's Right" campaign advanced awareness on violence prevention in Constanța in collaboration with UNHCR and Romanian Police. Sensiblu Foundation also provided 59 hours of individual counselling to 20 persons, including 5 new individuals receiving services.
- On October 25, UNHCR and Sensiblu Foundation hosted a community session in Constanța in observance of the Orange Day campaign, aimed at raising awareness on the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls. The event engaged 15 refugee women, providing a supportive space for them to express their thoughts, emotions, and personal experiences through painting. Each participant produced a distinctive work of art that represented their experience, a message, or hope in relation to gender-based violence prevention, empowerment, and healing.
- In October, HIAS Romania conducted three rounds of cross-sectoral MHPSS-GBV workshops with refugees from Ukraine, designed to promote long-term integration through a comprehensive skill-building and awareness approach, reaching a total of 19 unique beneficiaries. These workshops included vital life skills training - such as time management, prioritization, problem-solving, and communication skills - alongside GBV awareness sessions that covered de-escalation techniques for handling GBV-related confrontations. By combining these aspects, the workshops not only addressed immediate safety and well-being, but also aimed to equip participants with tools for smoother adaptation and integration.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Refugee women from Ukraine display a notable increase in understanding topics related to GBV, including recognizing various forms and indicators of GBV. The enhanced awareness has encouraged participants to speak openly about their personal experiences and those of others, fostering a trusting, supportive environment during awareness sessions. To build on this progress, there is a strong need for continued GBV awareness workshops that nurture this trust and openness.
- Refugee women from Ukraine expressed a desire for more practical, hands-on trainings, particularly in the areas of de-escalation and self-defence techniques.
- GBV workshops should be opened to Ukrainian men, as an increasing number of men are crossing the border. Engaging this demographic could foster a more inclusive community understanding of GBV and encourage supportive roles across genders in combating it.





## Education

### Achievements and Impact

- During October, RRP partners provided support to Ukrainian children and their parents for enrolment in the Romanian education system through information sharing, translations, data entry, organization of Romanian courses, preparation of documentation, discussions with school principals, teachers, parents, visits to schools and hubs, and discussions with key institutions, NGOs, and various entities to solve the issues related to Ukrainian refugees' inclusion. Data on the enrolment and allocation of Ukrainian children in the national school network are collected at county level and centralised by the Ministry of Education. The information will be shared once is validated.
- RRP partners focused on local and national coordination, on facilitating increased 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.
- Through dedicated support extended to the School Inspectorate of the Municipality of Bucharest (ISMB) and the Education Desk at RomExpo, an additional 325 enrolment requests (104 for preschool/kindergarten and 207 for school) were registered and processed in Bucharest in October 2024. Additionally, during this month, ISMB started putting together a list of Ukrainian children that can be evaluated on Romanian language progress and have the certification exam. Following the validation process from ISMB this information will be displayed on the [website](#) of the School Inspectorate of the Municipality of Bucharest.
- The capacity building programme Teaching and Learning in Difficult Times (TLDT) for strengthening teachers' capacities in Romania in the framework of the national education sector response to the Ukrainian refugee response and implemented with UNICEF support by the British Council in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education and county school inspectorates ended in October. Due to good feedback received and requests for further rollout, the British Council, the Ministry of Education, and UNICEF are working for the accreditation of the course to make the training available at the teacher training centre in Bucharest. This will ensure that the content is available to all teaching staff in Bucharest.
- UNICEF in Romania engaged with national, county, and local authorities and NGOs to ensure continuity of education support services, including through partnership agreements to help prolong the operations of education hubs and to advocate for the organization of additional Romanian language courses under the leadership of county school inspectorates to meet the growing demand. Educational supplies were distributed to several county school inspectorates as part of the back-to-school activities.
- UNICEF's partnership agreements with the British Council, JRS Romania, FITT, HOLTIS, 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 (Bucharest, Braşov, Cluj-Napoca, Constanţa, Timișoara, and Vâlcea county), 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 supported the operations of 16 play and learning and parenting hubs for children in early education, through the collaboration with the NGO Step-by-Step.
- JRS Romania's activities under a UNICEF project focused on supporting Ukrainian children to participate in the national education system in the new academic year by organising educational activities as after-school in six learning centres (four in Bucharest, one in Braşov, and one in Constanţa) as well as the playground at RomExpo to 340 children with a team of 23 teachers. It also ensured psychologists work closely with school counsellors for individual support and mediation with parents, teachers, and school management.
- Under and AMIF funded project, JRS implemented various activities in Constanţa and Galaţi, such as counselling services on the access to education, including enrolment, access to social benefits, language courses, and

educational activities for 230 children and 248 adults from Ukraine; four teachers are involved in organizing daily Romanian language courses in various formats.

- Under the Entreculturas and Caritas projects, Romanian online classes were organized for 1,318 children from 35 locations in Romania (of which 65 per cent are already enrolled in Romanian education system), with the support of six Romanian teachers. Learning activities for 60 preschool children were also provided by JRS in Bucharest, under the One Proposal project.
- In Constanța, JRS organized activities under the Științescu project which offers IT workshops, providing learning support to 93 refugee and Romanian children during 11 workshops and other activities.
- On 24 October, the final evaluation of the Safe and Inclusive Education for Refugee Children and Adolescent in Romania (SIERCAR) project organized by Plan International, and Exclusive Minds with the support of JRS Romania took place. The evaluation was carried out following focus group discussions, key informant interviews, desk research and survey. Educational activities and psychosocial support played a vital role in helping on children and adolescents integrate into Romanian society, improving their language skills, confidence, and overall well-being. The final evaluation explored the experiences of the different stakeholders involved to extract valuable lessons that can better inform future initiatives and ensure their sustainability. An important learning concerns the integrated approach that combines educational support with psychosocial and basic needs, which is essential for addressing the complex challenges faced by refugee populations.
- In October, World Vision Romania provided support to ensure quality education for almost 300 refugee children through socio-educational centres located in Bucharest, Cluj, Suceava, and Vâlcea (Happy Bubbles). The monthly schedule at the socio-educational centres includes daily access to after-school services such as homework assistance, remedial classes, Romanian language classes, and non-formal educational activities, including arts and crafts workshops, English language skills development, outdoor activities, sports, and logic games, among others. In Constanța and Cluj, kindergarten-specific activities were provided aimed at fostering early literacy and numeracy, as well as workshops for preschool children designed to enhance their coordination and motor skills. MHPSS activities are conducted on a weekly basis at the centres, complemented by a monthly child protection group activities engaging both children and their parents. The centres also facilitate integration activities aimed at promoting social cohesion and preventing discrimination, organizing a minimum of two activities per month at each location, with a balanced participation of host community children and refugee children, utilizing a peer-to-peer approach.
- In Constanța, World Vision Romania partnered with three public schools, and in Suceava, with one public kindergarten, to establish educational support teams dedicated to fostering the inclusion and active participation of Ukrainian children in formal education.
- World Vision Romania prepared for the Back-to-School campaign, during which educational kits are distributed both to Ukrainian and host community children enrolled in our programs. Additionally, we will equip teachers and educators with kits designed to enhance their ability to deliver educational activities.
- Terre des Hommes continued its work in Bucharest and Brașov, as well as in Constanța together with its partner Civic Resource Centre and in Baia Mare with City Makers. Activities consisted of individual and group MHPSS sessions, intercultural and life-skills development, adapted information, referral, a case management, and individual protection assistance. In Brașov, our team focused on different aspects including RIF activities, group psychosocial support sessions, intercultural and life-skills development, case management and individual protection assistance. As outputs under educational programming activities, 145 children participated in intercultural learning and life skills activities in the RIFs, centres and schools.
- CNRR provided counselling on access to education through its regional offices in Bucharest, Brașov, Constanța, Galați, Iași, and Suceava. This included assisting the children and their parents with school and kindergarten enrolment procedure, the recognition and equivalence of studies and diplomas, and referrals to Romanian language courses and other educational activities.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The Government Decision no. 1178/2024 “for establishing the amount, conditions and mechanism for granting lump sums according to Government Emergency Ordinance No. 96/2024 on the granting 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” entered into force. The decision gives new arrivals from Ukraine and the right to apply for government lump sum payments. One of the conditions for receiving payments is that children should be enrolled in the Romanian educational system or be registered at approved educational hubs. As such, new arrivals enrolling their children in kindergarten or school need help to understand the school enrolment procedure, access Romanian language courses, help to access psychological counselling for children, while additional places need to be provided in kindergartens and daycare to meet demand.

- There remain challenges related to the efforts to fully integrate refugee children in the Romanian education system. These challenges include limited capacity for places, challenges in the transition from audient to pupil status, insufficient preparedness of teachers to accommodate refugees, and language barriers. Families report that allocation of children to schools is delayed, and schools are unsure how to transition students from informal attendance to full enrolment, leaving children and parents in uncertainty about their education.
- There is an ongoing need to strengthen the capacity of the national education system to integrate all Ukrainian refugee children. There were delays in enrolment and assignments in the new academic year in processing requests and distributing children to schools. Inconsistencies in the application of social scholarships for children with audient status need to be addressed.
- NGO's face challenges in maintaining financial support from donors and the uncertainty of sustaining support for educational hubs, especially considering new enrolment data which shows significantly lower than in the previous school year.
- There remains a lack of tailored support services, such as language classes, tutoring, or counselling, to help refugees adjust and succeed in the educational system.
- On 30 October, a new methodology for the equivalence of study periods completed abroad was adopted. It does not cover holders of temporary protection, but only those who requested or received a form of international protection, along with Romanian, EU, EEA and Swiss citizens. The new methodology lists elements of the evaluation procedure including the status of the educational institution, the form of education, the level and duration of the studies, the learning outcomes and skills acquired. In addition to education, the equivalence certificate is recognised employment in the labour market and enrolment in professional training courses.



## Health and Nutrition

### Achievements and Impact

- On 17 October, the MHPSS sub-Working Group hosted a virtual event on "Exploring Global MHPSS Resources: Focal Points from the IASC MHPSS M&E Help Desk." The session featured presentations by Dr. Rebecca Horn from the IASC MHPSS M&E Helpdesk and Murat Can Birand Apaydin from the WHO HQ, focusing on the IASC MHPSS M&E Framework. The MHPSS sub-Working Group from Moldova attended, promoting cross-border collaboration and knowledge exchange. This event included an open discussion on key MHPSS themes and introduced globally recognized resources to strengthen monitoring and evaluation in MHPSS programming. The meeting served as a valuable platform for capacity-building and fostering stronger connections among MHPSS stakeholders from across Romania and Moldova.
- Psychological support remains a key health need for Ukrainian refugees in Romania. In October, WHO cultural mediators delivered 64 individual counselling sessions as well as 4 group counselling sessions attended by 212 persons in Bucharest and Constanța. WHO cultural mediators also organized 12 art and music therapy sessions, which have proved highly effective in addressing stress and anxiety among the Ukrainian community.
- In October, WHO cultural mediators provided information on healthcare access and services to 162 Ukrainian refugees, accompanied 156 refugees to medical appointments and supported 99 Ukrainians with scheduling specialist appointments.

- WHO Romania contracted the hotline of the Independent Midwives Association (AMI) which provides guidance on a range of topics including family doctor registration, health access, neonatal and postnatal care and access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and family planning services. The hotline also supports WHO Romania with the dissemination of health promotional material through their online communication channels. During October, the hotline received over 756 calls and messages.
- Access to primary care remains a priority for Ukrainian refugees. To facilitate primary care access for Ukrainian refugees, WHO Romania provides financial and administrative support to selected family medical clinics across the country, incentivizing their engagement in the refugee healthcare program. During October, WHO supported family doctors provided 402 consultations to Ukrainian refugees, including 15 child vaccinations.
- The WHO translation hotline has had a strong uptake since its launch in April and has been crucial in addressing language as the main barriers for Ukrainians accessing national health services in Romania. In October, the hotline provided simultaneous interpretation for 60 medical and psychological consultations with a call time of more than 1,000 minutes.
- Given the high proportion of women in the Ukrainian refugee population, easy access to SRH is paramount. The WHO midwives in Galați continued to provide midwifery consultations for Ukrainian women throughout October and provided referrals to specialized care for 25 refugees.
- Refugee health promotion is crucial to ensure the Ukrainian community adopts healthy behaviours. In October 2024, WHO disseminated public health information via dedicated social media channels on topics ranging from health access to immunization, mental health, and GBV/SRH to over 32,000 Ukrainian refugees. In parallel, AMI shared WHO health promotional information with over 16,000 people.
- On 10 October, WHO Romania participated in the Stress Congress in Bucharest and presented on WHO's approaches to stress management, addressing both humanitarian and development contexts. This included strategies for supporting mental health resilience in crisis-affected communities and promoting sustainable mental health frameworks in development settings. The congress on "Brain Health, Brain Aging, and Longevity Science," provided a platform to share WHO's comprehensive stress management perspectives with an international audience.
- During October, Terre des Hommes continued its work in Bucharest, Brașov, and Constanța together with its partner the Civic Resource Centre and in Baia Mare with City Makers. 623 children attended individual or group MHPSS sessions, or by attending activities focused on psychosocial development. In the three locations where services are offered, Bucharest, Brașov, and Constanța, 225 children participated in MHPSS activities within RIFs. Among these, 120 children engaged in digital skills activities held at the RIFs.
- 142 children received tailored information on their rights as children and how to access services in Romania during various MHPSS activities organized at the RIFs. Furthermore, 257 adults benefited from individual mental health consultations, group support activities, and participation in MHPSS community events alongside their children. During these events, 47 adults were provided with tailored information to support their specific needs.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Challenges remain regarding access to healthcare due to persistent problems with the National Health Insurance Agency's platform, difficulties with finding a family doctor, language barriers, and challenges related to registering on the platform when the insured individual has presented two different documents for the purposes of accessing health services which is the case when someone has asked for a new temporary protection permit.
- Significant information gaps remain for refugees seeking healthcare services, impacting their ability to navigate the health system and access care. Information gaps range from confusion regarding health entitlements, to limited understanding of how to access national health services.



## Basic Needs

### Achievements and Impact

- During October, NGO 4 Change and UNHCR worked closely with local authorities to identify alternative accommodation solutions for the 105 refugees from Ukraine hosted in the UTCB dormitory in Bucharest, which closed on 31 October. Partners committed to find the most appropriate shelter solutions for the most vulnerable refugees, with several solutions being presented, including transfer to other collective accommodation centres and financial support for renting private accommodation. At UTCB, partners provided protection services including social counselling, interpretation, accompaniment for medical checkups, and enrolment for social assistance for the most vulnerable. Families relocated to new locations, including to other collective centres in Bucharest (Edmond Centre) and Iași (Nicolina Centre), and to apartments supported through a cash for rent program from FONSS.
- In October, Save the Children and UNHCR developed a draft winter assessment to understand the seasonal needs of refugees residing in Romania and to help humanitarian agencies in Romania tailor their winter assistance programmes.
- In October, AidRom continued its partnership with the Timișoara Food Bank running four food distribution sessions at the AidRom Multifunctional Centre at which 38 Ukrainian refugee families (120 persons) received food packages. AidRom also held nine social vouchers distribution sessions to meet the basic needs of Ukrainian refugees, with 148 refugees residing in Arad, Bihor, and Timiș counties receiving the vouchers. The vouchers can be used for purchasing food, non-food items and medication.
- Save the Children Romania actively addressed the urgent needs of vulnerable communities by providing essential financial assistance through a voucher distribution to help meet basic expenses. 825 vouchers were distributed following a case-managed approach, supporting approximately 230 families, reaching a total of 450 children and 375 adults, with each person receiving vouchers worth RON 630 (US\$ 133). A further 1,528 vouchers were distributed based on social assessments, assisting 471 families, benefitting 786 children and 742 adults with each person receiving vouchers worth RON 300 (US\$ 63). This support was provided in various locations, including Bucharest, Baia Mare, Cluj, Galați, Iași, Sighișoara, Suceava, Timișoara, and Tulcea. This direct assistance has been instrumental in helping to reduce the financial distress and improve the living conditions of individuals and families facing difficulties in these communities. Further, Save the Children Romania distributed 1,153 essential non-food items (NFIs), encompassing hygiene and sanitary kits, as well as baby, school, and recreational kits to refugees in ten locations including Bucharest, Baia Mare, Constanța, Galați, Iași, Năvodari, Sighetu Marmăției, Suceava, Timiș, Tulcea.
- UNHCR targeted some 5,700 people with four months cash assistance during April to September 2024 through its cash for refugees with the specific needs programme. In October, UNHCR assisted almost 1,000 forcibly displaced persons found eligible during the month of September with their second instalment. Additionally, UNHCR has released the third instalment for over 1,800, and assisted over 1,000 people with the fourth instalment. Payments for the remaining instalments of the programme will continue until the end of the year. UNHCR also began to enrol vulnerable newly arrived families from Ukraine through its cash for winter programme aimed at providing one-time cash assistance to meet seasonal needs. The cash for winter programme will also target vulnerable households identified under the cash for refugees with the specific needs programme. The eligibility criteria and deduplication procedure were discussed and agreed in the Cash Working Group.
- UNHCR's Field Office in Suceava formalized donations to the Romanian authorities in the counties of Maramureș and Suceava. The Territorial Inspectorate of Border Police in Sighetu Marmăției received 15 lifebuoys, 15 30 metre ropes, 15 lights, and 400 thermal blankets. These rescue items will be used in emergency situations where the lives of Ukrainians making illegal border crossings in the Sighetu Marmăției area are at risk.

- In October, UNHCR and partners distributed nearly 4,500 CRIs, including mattresses, towels, blankets, pillows, hygiene kits, and clothing to more than 1,800 refugees living in Bistrița, Bucharest, Constanța, Galați, Sibiu, Timiș and Suceava. So far in 2024, UNHCR distributed more than 80,000 CRIs to 41,735 refugees in Romania.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Refugees from Ukraine and partners report continued challenges in accessing accommodation, primarily due to limited availability of spaces in collective shelters, ineligibility for the government assistance program or unwillingness of landlords to rent to Ukrainians. Furthermore, there are few accommodation options available that are suited to the needs of refugees requiring specialized support or assistance, such as persons with disabilities. Newly arrived refugees from Ukraine and those with changing circumstances are at risk of not finding accommodation to meet immediate or temporary needs. Partners are also concerned that despite the adoption of the Government Decision establishing continued support for persons already hosted in collective centres until 31 March 2025, it is unclear how many of the remaining collective centres will stay open until then. Partners will continue to advocate for longer-term and sustainable solutions for the most vulnerable.
- UTCB Tei collective accommodation centre closed on 31 October. Prior to the closure, NGO 4Change and involved partners tried to identify alternative accommodation solutions. Out of the 105 refugees accommodated, around 15 refugees are still evaluating their options.
- On 24 October, UNHCR Representative met with 13 Ukrainian residents of FONSS Nicolina collective centre in Iași. Issues on access to food and medical assistance and services were raised, with most concerns related to the lack of food provision at the centre.



## Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion

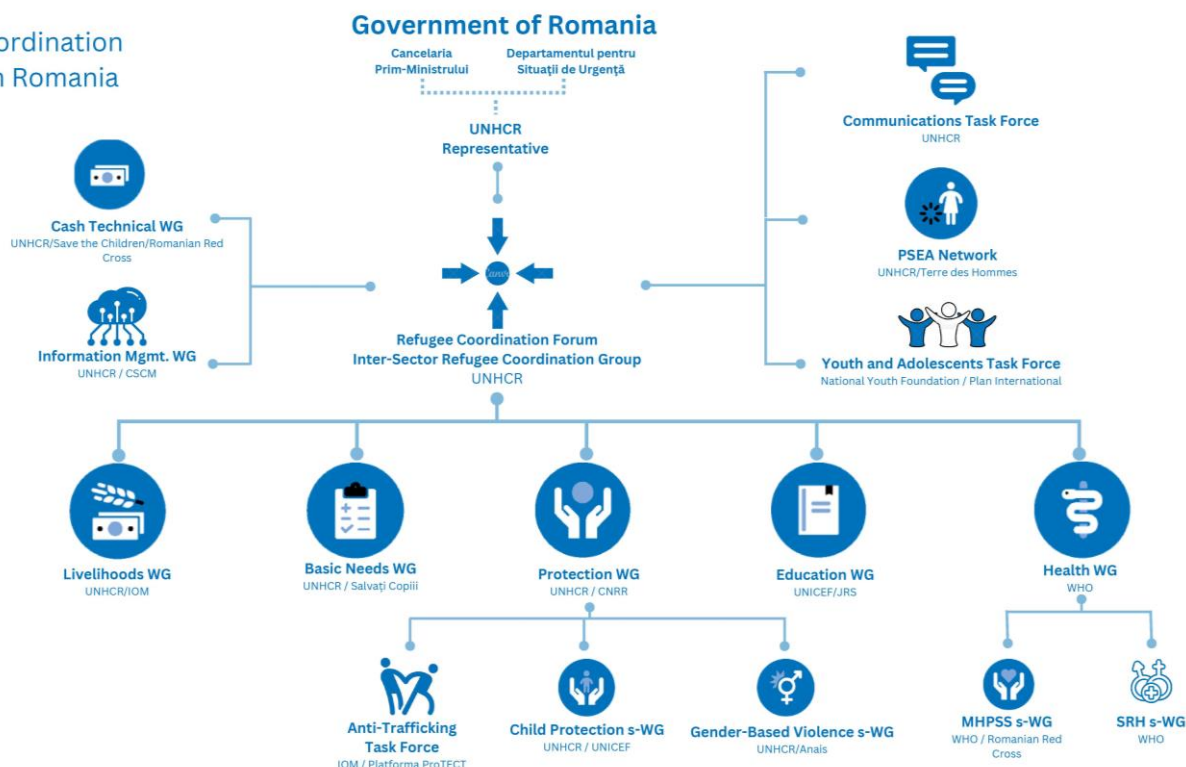
### Achievements and Impact

- Project Voyager/Jobs4Ukraine, World Vision Romania, CNRR and AidRom supported the National Employment Agency (ANOFM) in the annual Job Fair for Graduates, that took place across the country on 11 October. Present in most counties where there are large communities of refugees (Bucharest, Brașov, Cluj, Constanța, Galați Iași, Ilfov, Suceava, Timișoara, and Vâlcea), the partners accompanied around 120 jobseekers at the employers' stand, supporting them with interpretation and follow-up. In Galați, a total of 427 vacancies were presented, with 32 positions specifically available for Ukrainian citizens. These vacancies were mainly in sectors such as construction and HR outsourcing. In Constanța, many job opportunities were related to engineering, mechanics, and technical specialisations - some requiring knowledge of Romanian or English. Several companies, including a butter production factory and a bakery factory, offered attractive positions for those without foreign language skills. Ukrainian women showed interest in vacancies related to hotel cleaning and roles at the butter factory. However, many refugees expressed concerns about the approaching end of the summer tourist season in Constanța, placing in jeopardy their current jobs, highlighting the urgency for new employment. The main challenges they face include language barriers that impede communication with employers and the need for flexible work schedules due to childcare responsibilities.
- On 2 October, some 300 persons, both refugees and vulnerable members of the host community participated in a job fair organised by Ateliere Fără Frontiere in Bucharest. The employers present were selected based on corporate social responsibility were from different sectors, such as supermarkets, delivery services, large distribution chains and offered a range of vacancies. Jobseekers could check job offers in different sectors, have the possibility to discuss directly with the representatives of companies present, and benefit from guidance in finding a job matching their skills.

- On 15 October, UNHCR and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) held an online awareness session for refugees interested in funding opportunities to start or expand their businesses in Romania. The session included an online presentation followed by a Q&A part and was attended by around 85 participants. Eligible consultancy services include marketing, business strategy, digitalization, ESG audits, financial management, and the grant financing covers up to 100 per cent of consultancy project costs, with a maximum of EUR 30,000 (US\$ 31,574) per project. (More info is available on the EBRD website: [Information for Ukrainian refugees business owners - EBRD Advice for small business](#)).
- On 17 October, World Vision Romania finalised the list of grantees for the business plan competition that culminated trainings on entrepreneurship over the summer. Out of 170 applicants, 30 were awarded a USD 6,000 grant to start up or expand their business in Romania. Most of them are in the services field, as well as IT, training or handicrafts located in Bucharest (10), followed by Cluj (6), Constanța (5), Iași and Suceava (5) and Brașov (4).

## 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 | 4Change | Good Neighbours Japan | Habitat for Humanity | HEKS/EPER | HIAS | IOM | Jesuit Refugee Service Romania | Migrant Integration Centre Brașov | National Youth Foundation | Necuvinte | Novapolis | ParentIS | Project Voyager | PATRIR | Plan International | RomaJust | Romanian Angel Appeal | Save the Children Romania | SECS | Sensiblu Foundation | Sera | Sus Inima | Terre des Hommes | Tineri pentru Tineri | UNESCO | UNFPA | UNICEF | UNHCR | WHO | World Vision Romania

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## LINKS

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