



Romania

September 2022

Since the war in Ukraine began on 24 February, over 2.4 million people have crossed the border to Romania and were supported by the Government, civil society, private sector actors, international organizations and volunteer's hospitality and generosity. The Refugee Response Plan (RRP) supports the Government of Romania in protecting and assisting refugees from Ukraine in Romania.

UNHCR supports the Government in coordinating humanitarian actors under the framework of the Regional Refugee Response (RRP) and through the Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) and sector working groups, aligned with the governmental National Plan (NP) of Measures. The "two plans; one response" approach brings together stakeholders in the country to ensure a harmonized response.

More than seven months into the conflict, 22 partners of RRP undertook a [recalibration exercise](#) and its results were presented during the third RCF held on 23 September with the participation of more than 60 officials from the Government, partners, and donors.

KEY FIGURES* (as of end September)

7.5 M

Refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe

2.4 M

Border crossing into Romania

82.7 K

Refugees from Ukraine remaining in Romania

70.1 K

Refugees who obtained temporary protection in Romania

60%

Of refugees who obtained temporary protection are women and girls

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

USD 1.85 B

Overall financial requirements

75%

Funded for the overall RRP

USD 226.6 M

Financial requirements for the Romania response

79%

Funded for the Romania response

22

Appealing partners involved in the Romania RRP

*See the [Operational Data Portal for the Ukraine Refugee Situation](#) and the [Romania 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, about 7.5 million refugees from Ukraine have been recorded across Europe. A total of 1,718,654 border crossings from Ukraine and Moldova into Romania have been recorded, with some 82,743 choosing to remain in the country. Some 70,668 have obtained temporary protection, which enables access to healthcare, education, and the labour market. Most refugees are staying in large cities such as Bucharest, Constanta, and Brasov.

During the month of September, the RRP recalibration exercise was finalised. The recalibration exercise was a moment to take stock of the achievements and bottlenecks that RRP partners faced since the onset of the Ukraine refugee situation and to adapt the RRP strategy to new operational and strategic developments, notably the launch of the National Plan of Measures on the Protection and Inclusion of Persons under Temporary Protection from Ukraine. The recalibration was also an opportunity to adapt agency plans to meet the identified winterization needs as faced by refugees from Ukraine in Romania.

At the invitation of the Government of Romania, 23 EU Member States, Norway, the Republic of Moldova and the UK, the European Commission, UN Agencies and the OECD met on 8-9 September in the Bucharest Forum to advance towards a common platform for inclusion of refugees from Ukraine, with the aim to identify the best ways of reaching a platform of dialogue for a common vision on medium and long term measures for refugee inclusion. The creation of a “Bucharest Platform”, as a European Platform of Dialogue on Refugee Inclusion, was discussed, aiming to (1) Inform and drive political decision and commitment at national level; (2) Shape together a common vision on major areas of concern so as to avoid duplication of efforts and push/pull factors; and (3) Complement EC existing expert level cooperation mechanisms. Following general agreement with this way forward, participating countries are further discussing on its implementation.

To strengthen information management systems and to better inform the refugee response in Romania, UNHCR and Department of Emergency Situation (DSU) organized a RefData Meet Up in Bucharest on 22 September. Thirty-six participants from relevant authorities, municipalities and humanitarian actors engaged in the discussions and affirmed their support to further improve the information management system in Romania, including regarding population figures, needs assessments and population reached to enhance the evidence base for programming and coordination.



Ateliere fara Frontiere (AFF), providing free employment assistance services at RomExpo in the newly decorated space shared by ANOFM and AFF.



PROTECTION SECTOR

Achievements and Impact

- Internews launched the findings of its Information Ecosystem Assessment, which includes the perspective of more than 1,200 refugees and 20+ service providers, government and local media on information preferences, needs and the barriers refugees currently face in accessing the information they need to inform decision making. This report provides important insight to help understand refugees' information preference and dynamics to inform more efficient communication and engagement activities, improve the design of accountability mechanisms and ultimately encourage greater refugee participation in response decision making. The report has been presented in some of the refugee coordination forms and Internews is planning a series of events for the refugee community to present the findings.
- To help creating an evidence base, Terre des Hommes initiated an area-based assessment of protection needs and gaps in Bucharest while also presenting its preliminary findings on its recent assessment conducted in Constanta in some coordination meetings held this month. These findings confirmed and complemented those identified by partners in other assessments conducted in Constanta.
- Protection Service provision remained a core focus throughout the reporting month. As of September, UNHCR and its Romanian partner the Romanian National Council for Refugee (CNRR) provided protection support, advice, referrals and information to over 39,328 refugees in person (26,347) and remotely through helplines (12,961). UNHCR's Help website, which provides key information to refugees, received over 72,000 visits since the start of the war in Ukraine.
- At RomExpo, the multipurpose centre continues to receive around 300 persons per day and offers critical services through UNHCR, governmental institutions and partners. Plans are to establish the presence of Fundatia Sensiblu to provide GBV information awareness raising, counselling and referrals to GBV services.
- Save the Children reached 5,923 Ukrainian children and 6,113 Ukrainian adults through the provision of services, including the distribution of NFIs, information and counselling, mother and baby areas, case management and financial support CVA, in seven counties. The organization continues to offer activities through its Integrated Hubs established at the borders and in the main transit points and in the Counselling Hubs located in main urban areas.
- NRC continued providing protection case management, legal counselling and UDOC activities in Romania through the local partners Touched Romania, ARCA and AMURTEL. NRC is working on the expansion of their activities in Brasov. About 10,500 individuals received protection services, including information on essential services available in the area.
- IOM and UNHCR continue to jointly facilitate fast-track transfers of refugees from Palanca border crossing point with Ukraine, in Moldova, to Huși, Romania where they are assisted by authorities and partners to continue their journey within the country. As of 24 September, 12,824 refugees from Ukraine had been transported to Romania through this mechanism.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- ANAIS -through its engagement with Ukrainian refugees hosted in private and large accommodation centres- highlighted a general lack of information concerning living conditions of many refugees residing in host communities and concerns over protection risks and incidents of exploitation, abuse and violence that might not be reported.
- Partners continue to report the difficulties that refugees face in accessing health care and education due to obstacles, including language barriers.



ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS (AAP) / COMMUNICATION WITH COMMUNITIES (CWC)

Achievements and Impact

- During the month of September, the Accountability to Affected Populations / Communication with Communities (AAP/CwC) task force held meetings focused on identifying and addressing communication needs and gaps, including on planning for how to better address messaging gaps on linguistic barriers. Internews and Clear Global facilitated two presentations and discussions on improving information provision.
- Awareness on the 'feedback and complaint mechanism' has been a focus area during the month of September. The number of people of concern using the dedicated email addresses and the self-service online forms has increased. Efforts will be undertaken to ensure an environment is established to provide 'honest feedback' and tackle any perceptions of reprisals when negative feedback is provided.
- Additional to its engagement is other social media, UNHCR Telegram channel is steadily growing in terms of followers. Individual posts reached more than 1,100 people. Stakeholders and partners were invited to share the channel's link and QR code.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Outdated and -at times- conflicting information from various actors in the field has caused confusion amongst refugees. Government authorities have launched an information platform with the aim to provide officially vetted information on rights and access to services <https://protectieucraina.gov.ro/1/>.
- Increased attention is needed to address information barriers that may exist for the most vulnerable, like people with disabilities, people with impaired vision, elderly and children.



CHILD PROTECTION (CP)

Achievements and Impact

- Since the beginning of the crisis in Ukraine, 4,397 unaccompanied children have been registered by the General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection. Currently, 1,094 unaccompanied children remain in Romania together with a relative or legal caregiver, while 211 Ukrainian children are in the child welfare system. Prahova, Iași, Brașov and Bucharest (Sector 4) continue to be the primary counties where the majority of unaccompanied children are accommodated.
- As part of the national management information system for the rapid identification and documentation of all children arriving from Ukraine, 6,584 children have been registered in Primero database as of 26 September and referred to relevant authorities for adequate case management. This exercise, conducted by a national network of over 300 social workers and psychologists in each of the 41 counties and six sectors in Bucharest, is anticipated to conclude before the end of the year.
- Terre des hommes supported an additional 682 beneficiaries, including children and their families, with kits, MHPSS sessions, and other direct services and referrals through one transit location and 11 permanent and semi-permanent centres.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There continues to be a need for the provision of mental health and psychosocial support services and the identification of Ukrainian/Russian-speaking psychologists and specialists.
- UNICEF and UNHCR, together with the authorities and partners, are undertaking a joint review of all Blue Dot locations to ensure standardized service delivery and that all Blue Dot locations are prepared for the upcoming winter months.
- There is a need to conduct a mapping of child protection services at county level, particularly in locations with larger number of children residing, and ensure referral mechanisms are adequately established and familiarized. This is a priority activity for the CP SWG for the coming period and will require significant support from all members and local authorities.
- Child protection activities continue to be primarily concentrated along the border areas with Ukraine and Moldova, leaving a gap in service provision in other locations. Constanta is one location where services remain limited and a need for larger presence of actors implementing child protection activities.



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

Achievements and Impact

- GBV Sub-Group (within the Protection Working Group) initiated the updating of GBV referral pathways. Partner agencies are working to expand the referral mechanisms to all areas with a significant refugee population.



PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (PSEA)

Achievements and Impact

- The Safeguarding Resource and Support Hub for Eastern Europe (RSH EE) is conducting a national country safeguarding assessment to identify challenges and gaps faced by civil society organizations supporting Ukrainian refugees. In addition, RSH EE in Romania is carrying out a mapping and an in-depth safeguarding needs assessment related to refugees with disabilities and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs). The assessment reports, which will form the basis for sector capacity enhancement, will be made publicly available in mid-November 2022.
- To further enhance sector capacity, a Safeguarding workshop, ActionAid conducted a PSEA training session for 2 of its partners on 30 September in Timisoara. A total of 20 participants jointly developed a Safeguarding policy template which will form the basis for a draft policy and complaints mechanism to ensure Safeguarding within their organizations.
- Also, UNHCR delivered two training sessions on PSEA on 22 and 30 September in Suceava and Bucharest respectively, as part of partner's Sensiblu Foundation GBV trainings for total of 47 social workers, police authorities, and NGO staff (26 in Suceava and 21 in Bucharest).

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The limited investigation capacity of several PSEA Network members has been identified as a key gap. UNHCR will continue to work with partners and Network members to strengthen PSEA measures, including investigations.



TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (TIP)

Achievements and Impact

- With TIP a priority area of concern within the RRP, IOM in partnership with UNICEF conducted a training on counter trafficking and protection of victims and survivors of human trafficking for building the capacity of more than 50 staff of implementing partners in Suceava, Iasi and Botosani.
- Raising awareness on the issue is crucial. To that end, IOM and its implementing partners shared 850 materials on counter trafficking and the protection of its victims and survivors with field workers, refugees and TCNs in Suceava, Iasi, Botosani and border crossing points such as Siret with the aim of protecting potential victims and referral to authorities. IOM also focused on social media posts on the prevention of labour exploitation that reached over 30,5000 people in Romania.
- Working with the community, Eliberare and partners continued to implement the Anti Trafficking Support model in different areas around Romania; creating safety plans and raising awareness through information sessions for 1,000 people.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is need to improve the capacity of field staff on the early identification and referral of children of Victim of Trafficking (VoT); increase awareness raising about activities on trafficked children and prevention of cyber-crime, with a focus on adolescents; increase support to improve the safe houses for VoT; increase and improve data regarding children VoT; establish a clear referral mechanism for children based on the needs of each location; ensure children's access to justice (including protection of children as a victim and /or witnesses during legal proceedings).



EDUCATION SECTOR

Achievements and Impact

- Schools re-opened in Romania on 5 September. A total number of 4,031 Ukrainian children registered officially in Romanian schools. While a 56 per cent increase compared to previous year (2,577), there are still significant gaps to cover the entire population of children, estimated to 27,000.
- Several surveys done by UNICEF, Save the Children, FONPC demonstrated the interest of refugee population to maintain education for their children, albeit noting some specific challenges related to languages, and availability of education. More than 70 per cent Ukrainian children maintain partial or total online education.
- The complementarity of Romanian and Ukrainian education within one day, a potentially ideal solution, reveals complex for some children since it leads to long day of schooling with little social support (canteen, transportation support or recreational activities).
- Flexible strategies are being implemented by education partners to enhance school enrolment. Strategies include education desks in one stop refugee centres such as the RomExpo centre (explaining processes and rights, school enrolment), installation of Ukrainian "referral and cultural focal point" in some key schools in urban context, information sharing with main stakeholders to avoid miscommunication, social

mobilisation campaigns, support Ukrainian classes in Romania via material and subsidies, support “learning hubs” to facilitate connectivity of Ukrainian children to online courses, and coordination with the Ministry of Education of Ukraine to ensure that learning activities in Romania will be considered as part of the child curricula.

- Distribution of supplies is key and is continuing throughout the month of September. Distributions included tablets and laptops for online education, standard education kits and early child development kits, reaching around 10,000 children, although not all of them having stayed in Romania.
- At strategic level, education was one of the key elements raised during the Bucharest Forum, “Towards a Common European Platform for Refugee Inclusion”, held on 8-9 September 2022 and Ministry of Education shared a refresher message with the regional school inspectorate to insist on opportunity to be offered to children to register in Romanian schools, albeit often only as free audience.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Continuous assessments and discussions have provided a clear view of needs in the education sector. These include the necessity to get rapid access to solid Romanian language trainings, but also to find slots in classes (which complex in urban centres), to have bilingual teachers, maintain link to Ukrainian education. The age situation varies with both a lack of early age education (ECD centres) and complexity to respond to the situation of adolescent education. Winterisation and potential energy crisis will impact on already limited availability of classrooms.
- The mobilisation of local authorities remains a necessity to ensure a standardised approach.
- Education of children with special needs but also consideration of local minorities and discriminated children will need to be taken into account for future plans.
- Based on the World Bank focus-group discussions with 170 Ukrainian mothers to better understand what happens after receiving assistance from the education desk at the RomExpo centre, the top reported challenges were delayed to no replies on enrolment applications and the Romanian school audient policy continues to result in high drop-out rate from the start of the school year.



HEALTH SECTOR

Achievements and Impact

- Health Service provision remains a core contribution of RRP partners. Over 370 consultations were provided to refugees from Ukraine at the RomExpo’s integrated clinic, covering family medicine, sexual and reproductive and mental health throughout the month of September.
- IOM medical teams evaluated 269 people and referred 229 beneficiaries for specialized consultations during September. Also, implementing partners supported by UNICEF provided primary health care assistance and referrals to specialist services to 920 children and women and UNICEF supported 1,477 children and caregivers to access mental health and psychosocial support nationwide.
- To- date, IOM and UNICEF assisted 3,412 Ukrainian nationals (adults and children) and more than 5,000 refugee children respectively with medical evaluations, medicines, support for additional investigations and registration with family physicians.
- To further strengthen the national health system, UNICEF supported the capacity building for 40 health professionals providing services for children and caregivers refugees in Bucharest. UNICEF also shared guides on nutrition, immunization, infection, prevention control and mental health at national level which has benefited 496,000 parent and child guardians so far. UNICEF directly supported the provision of the Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling at 19 service delivery points as well as the

procurement and distribution of emergency backpacks for 50 community nurses in Suceava County to strengthen care quality.

- The Co-Chairs of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) sub-working groups related to the Ukraine response met in Copenhagen 27-28 September 2022 to develop a “Framework for Prioritized Multisectoral Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Actions in Ukraine During and After the War” and agreed on set of actions for the next six months to address emerging MHPSS needs.
- Strengthening the national systems and to reduce barriers faced by refugees from Ukraine, WHO is collaborating with the National Health Insurance House to develop a hotline for refugees on access to healthcare, within terms of provision of Ukrainian speaking operators, training, SOPs elaboration.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- WHO partners are working to address identified gaps in procurement for COVID-19 tests and contraceptives.
- Primary health care access:
 - There are needs to provide refugees with more information regarding their health services entitlement, how to access them and individual referral/complaint mechanisms.
 - Gaps in understanding in accessing family medicine: WHO is planning to conduct a refugee and family doctors’ surveys, as well as a workshop for relevant authorities.
 - Need to increase provision and uptake of vaccination for both routine child immunisations and COVID-19 vaccination: UNICEF continues to procure equipment to support immunisation and essential health services and to advocate jointly with WHO for increasing access to primary health care services and vaccination services.
- Psychological first aid and stabilization services provided at the border crossing points and refugee reception centres need to be followed up by providing clear referral pathways and linkage to services to ensure a continuum of care.
- There is a lack of awareness about mental health among many Ukrainians and the topic remains stigmatized which are causing people not to seek mental health. Further outreach as part of future mental health strategies for services targeting refugees needs to be done.
- More specialized services are needed to address children refugees’ disabilities and their urgent mental health and psychosocial support needs.



BASIC NEEDS SECTOR – SHELTER, NON-FOOD ITEMS, WASH, FOOD SECURITY

Achievements and Impact

- On 8 September 2022, the Basic Needs Working Group undertook a “Winterization Working Session” to map winterization planning in Romania, including winter-specific challenges, priority response activities and specific coordination efforts or tools developed, through an interactive session. The session was attended by 31 representatives of 12 organizations. The results of the activity session indicate that Suceava, Iasi, Galati and Bucharest are areas that are well covered by winter-planned interventions; whereas Maramures and Satu Mare, even though they contain border crossing points, are largely underserved. Identified winterization interventions mostly focused on winterization of shelters, transit centers and Blue Dots; the provision of appropriate core relief items and the provision of winter cash assistance for vulnerable families to meet their additional winter needs.
- From the beginning of September 2022, Habitat for Humanity started converting the three-floor Edmond Office Building in Bucharest into an accommodation centre and social hub. The centre, which extends over 1900 square meter, has the capacity to accommodate over 100 refugees in the long term, and more than 20 refugees/night as transitory stays. Additional services, such as medical, psychological,

education, and recreational will be provided within the centre for the resident and non-resident populations, to meet their needs.

- World Vision --through its partners -distributed 56 MT of food to 45,739 refugees in Brasov, Galati, and Bucharest reaching 8,012 new beneficiaries during September. Moreover, World Vision provided hot meals for 2,300 refugees in Iasi and distributed 13,171 hygiene kits in Bucharest, Iasi, and Brasov. In terms of shelter, World Vision supported 4,176 refugees with temporary accommodation assistance in Iasi and Bucharest. World Vision also installed 20 ecological toilets at the Siret Border which benefited around 9,000 people who cross the border to Romania.
- During September, Good Neighbours provided shelter support to 80 refugees, including 36 children. Each person received three meals per day during their stay, with children having the opportunity to attend Romanian language courses.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Despite additional attention on the issue, provision of food, particularly hot meals at the borders and within transit centres, remains an important gap identified during the “Winterization Working Session”. Few organizations are active in food provision.
- To ensure sufficient geographical coverage of winter interventions, additional services should be provided to refugees in Constanta, Brasov, Timis and Sibiu counties.



CASH-BASED ASSISTANCE

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR is continuing to enrol refugees who have not received assistance from other humanitarian actors and/or new arrivals for Cash Based Intervention (CBI). UNHCR will extend Multi-purpose Cash (MPC) for an additional month (fourth month) and will provide a top-up for winterization for most vulnerable refugees. As of 30 September 2022, UNHCR has assisted over 20,808 people with MPC.
- The Romanian Red Cross enrolled almost 63,000 persons for MPC and around 55,000 persons had received their first instalment as of 13 September 2022. Since then, the Red Cross has stopped its enrolment for MPC and started referring refugees to UNHCR for MPC enrolment.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- To avoid duplication of assistance, there is an urgent need to have a mechanism in place to identify those that benefit from similar assistance through several agencies.



LIVELIHOODS AND INCLUSION

Achievements and Impact

- The National Agency for Employment (ANOFM) clarified that there were 6,431 Ukrainians with active employment contracts from January to August 2022. Of that number, 2,144 active employment contracts were established prior to the outbreak of conflict and 4,287 contracts began after fleeing. Of the 1,065

Ukrainians who have officially registered to receive ANOFM/AJOFM employment assistance services, 618 of them have earned jobs.

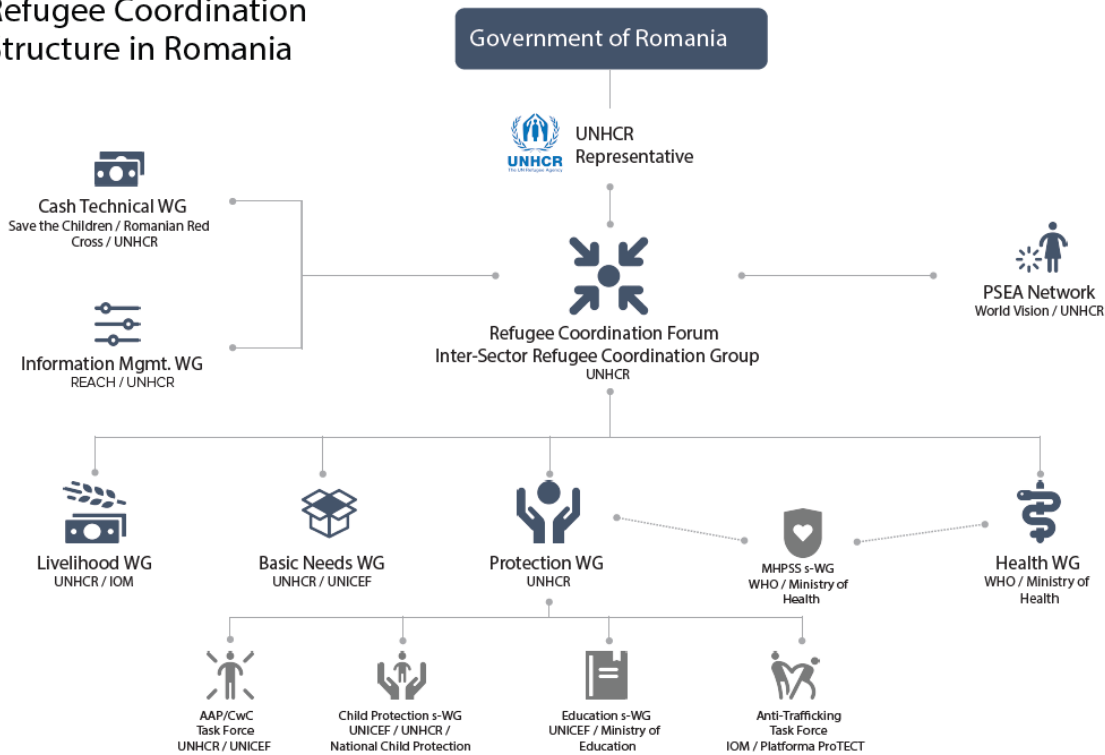
- UNHCR’s partner, Ateliere Fara Frontiere (AFF), has placed staff with language skills (Ukrainian, Russian, Romanian and English) to assist individuals with registering for employment assistance at the RomExpo centre.
- Jobs for Ukraine continues to grow in popularity and functionality in matching talent from Ukraine with job opportunities abroad and remote during the humanitarian crisis (jobs4UKR.com). Over 5,530 job seekers, 1,902 employers and 2,527 available jobs have been registered on the site, the services continue to expand with highlights including verification of employers and benefits such as childcare and accommodation.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Childcare and learning the Romanian language remain the two most popular barriers to employment. To address these barriers:
 - Swiss Church Aid HEKS/EPER continues to conduct assessments and collect information on ways to best address the urgent needs for childcare and is exploring possibilities for Ukrainian children to enter kindergartens both to engage children in education activities and to provide the opportunity for mothers to access and earn employment opportunities.
 - UNHCR has launched a request for information to identify service providers capable of teaching the Romanian language as a second language to over 2,500 individuals throughout Romania with emphasis on the counties with the highest number of individuals in need of assistance.

Working in partnership

Refugee Coordination Structure in Romania



CONTACTS

For further information, please contact:

Sebastiaan Der Kinderen, Senior Inter-Agency Coordination Officer, Romania kinderen@unhcr.org, Cell +40 725 566 165

Rozita Roghani, Associate Reporting Officer, Romania roghani@unhcr.org, Cell +40 723 261 356

LINKS

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