



# Romania

June 2023

Since the escalation of the international armed conflict in Ukraine on 24 February 2022, more than 5.9 million people have fled their homes to seek safety, protection and assistance across Europe. Over 3.7 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.

UN agencies and NGOs, support the national response in coordination of humanitarian actors under the framework of the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) and through the Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) and sector working groups. The 2023 Romania RRP is aligned with the Government National Plan of Measures (NPM) for the protection and inclusion of refugees from Ukraine.

UNHCR is leading the Inter-Agency platform comprised of 34 appealing partners implementing humanitarian activities for the refugees from Ukraine.

## KEY FIGURES\* (as of 02 July)

**5.9 M**

Individual refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe

**3.8 M**

Border crossing into Romania

**96 K**

Refugees from Ukraine remaining in Romania

**136 K**

Refugees who obtained temporary protection in Romania

**59%**

Of refugees who obtained temporary protection are women and girls

## 2023 REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN (RRP) FOR THE UKRAINE SITUATION\*\*

**USD 1.69 B**

Overall financial requirements

**USD 153.6 M**

Financial requirements for the Romania response\*\*\*

**34**

Appealing partners involved in the Romania RRP

\*See the [Operational Data Portal for the Ukraine Refugee Situation](#) and the [Romania portal page](#) for more details on refugee population figures and information resources. \*\*See the [Ukraine Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan 2023](#) for a breakdown of sectoral response priorities. \*\*\*See the [Romania Chapter of Ukraine Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan 2023](#).

## Operational context

Since 24 February 2022, more than 5.9 million people from Ukraine have sought refuge across Europe. As of 02 July 2023, more than 3.8 million border crossings from Ukraine and Moldova into Romania have been recorded by border police, with some 96,512 people choosing to remain in the country. Around 136,956 Ukrainian (135,654) and Third Country Nationals (1,302) have obtained temporary protection, which enables access to healthcare, education, and the labour market. The number of refugees from Ukraine present in Romania has been decreasing, from its peak of 113,009 in February, to 96,512 (as of 02 July).

The inter-agency coordination platform, led by UNHCR, liaised with the 34 humanitarian partners of the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) on their funding situation and its impact on programming. The current funding situation indicates that half of the appealing partners need to adjust their programming due to funding gaps and particularly local NGOs are severely affected. Sectors most affected are Protection (activities on response to gender-based violence, counter-trafficking etc) and Health. The 2023 RRP required US\$ 153.6M for activities in Romania, of which 17 per cent are funded in Q1. The results of the Q2 analysis will be shared in the coming weeks with relevant stakeholders.

UNHCR and partners commemorated the World Refugee Day with a series of events with participation of relevant authorities and institutions at national and local level, media, humanitarian actors and refugees from Ukraine and around the world hosted in Romania. Throughout the week, hundreds of refugees in Timisoara, Bucharest, Suceava, Galati, Constanta, Iasi, Radauti, and Sibiu engaged in the activities and exchanged their experiences. All events and engagements were centered around this year's theme [Hope Away from Home](#) – a world where refugees are always included, and highlighted the solidarity that refugees receive in Romania.



World Refugee Day in Iasi



World Refugee Day in Suceava

In order to better target assistance to those that are most in need, RRP partners, under the Protection, Basic Needs and Cash Working Group, together with the municipalities of Bucharest and Brasov developed a new, inter-agency and inter-sectoral vulnerability targeting methodology. On 16 June, the Municipality of Brasov and the Inter-Agency coordination platform, led by UNHCR, organized a workshop to discuss the vulnerability assessment scorecard methodology that has been developed in consultation with protection agencies and actors providing cash and other critical humanitarian assistance. 28 participants from 17 partners, including municipalities, UN Agencies and NGOs participated and discussed the vulnerability criteria for assistance. The resulting scorecard is being rolled out in the 'cash for protection' program of UNHCR in July and agencies interested in piloting the scorecard in their programs can contact the inter-agency team (contact details below).

**Spotlight on: Resilience Innovation Facilities Centres (RIFs), known as Innovation Hubs, Terre des hommes Romania**

In March 2023, Terre des hommes (Tdh) Romania launched two Resilience Innovation Facilities Centres (RIFs), known as *Innovation Hubs*, in Brasov and Bucharest. The Innovation hubs are targeting children between 7 and 18 years old. Under the slogan "Reinvent your childhood, reshape your future", these innovation hubs have been designed to challenge children and young people on topics such as friendship, tolerance, expressing emotions, etc. - and subsequently encourage them to express these through their own creative projects that includes 3D printing, laser cutting, vinyl cutting, combined with a MHPSS component.

The Innovation Hubs are equipped with modular spaces for learning through play, non-formal education workshops, creativity workshops, and the acquisition of technical and digital skills. They aim to strengthen the youth's agency, empowerment, and resilience by providing access to resources, tools, learning, activities, and experiences that enable them to seize development opportunities and unleash their own potential.

Refugee children attend English and Romanian language classes and afterschool programme in the RIF centres. These programmes serve two important purposes: enhancing communication skills and ensuring successful integration into Romanian society, while also encompassing vital knowledge about child protection.

The two innovative hubs, RIF, and the activities carried out by the mobile team in the centres, not only address the immediate needs of refugee children and parents, but also fall under the category of psychosocial support to protect their mental balance and psychosocial well-being. Tdh teams help refugee families to connect with the Romanian community and provide them with the means to face practical problems and to alleviate the suffering caused by conflict and displacement.

Since the beginning of the international conflict in 2022, Terre des hommes (Tdh) Romania has responded to the immediate needs of children, young people and mothers arriving in Romania, providing essential support in areas such as protection, mental health, psycho-social support, or personalized individual assistance.



Resilience Innovation Facility Centre - Brasov



Resilience Innovation Facility Centre - Bucharest



World Refugee Day - Constanta



Children's Day – Bucharest



## Protection

### Achievements and Impact

- In June, the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR) provided information and counselling remotely through its helplines to 319 refugees and supported 4,123 refugees from Ukraine on protection and integration at the border crossing points and in major urban centres. Salvati Copiii (SC) also maintained its presence at the border crossings points to provide newly arrived refugees with information and around the country. SC aided 1,776 children and 2,101 adults from Ukraine with various services. UNHCR continued to run its helpline and received over 900 calls and over 1,000 messages (Telegram and WhatsApp) during the month.
- In its work to continue supporting refugees with individual protection assistance, MHPSS and educational activities for adults and children, Tdh continued its work in Bucharest, Brasov, and Constanta through its partnership with the Civic Resource Centre, where 81 adults benefitted from protection interventions. Patrirc also heavily focused this month on assisting and accompanying refugees from Ukraine in the registration process for the new Housing Programme.
- In Suceava, Galați, Iași, and Bucharest, CNRR organized four community consultations for around 100 refugees to gather opinions about the issues with the enrolment in the new housing and integration support program, as well as to provide additional information on improving refugees' self-sufficiency through employment and entrepreneurship.
- UNICEF actively promoted the government's call center for individuals displaced from Ukraine, effectively reaching 1,005,498 people with messages regarding prevention and access to vital services such as social protection, health, nutrition, and education. Additionally, UNICEF engaged a total of 11,217 individuals in activities related to Social and Behavior Change (SBC).
- UNICEF mapped at-risk municipalities with a risk index developed and a nationwide partnership to strengthen the capacities of local authorities to access EU funding.
- CNRR completed a second community empowerment event in collaboration with DGASPC Bucharest District 4 by organizing a cooking workshop and sports activities with Somali, Ukrainian, and Romanian children. The event provided them with an opportunity to share elements of their culture through cuisine and to enjoy and engage in a recreational way of socializing.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- CNRR noted continued interest in obtaining information on integration in Romania due to the changes in the Government-run housing and integration support scheme. Refugees from Ukraine repeatedly reported additional requirements imposed by local authorities in the application process for housing support. Several municipalities requested written documents as proof on enrolment with the County Employment Agencies (AJOFM), proof of employment from employers, or proof of living at a given address, even if the requirements could be verified in the information system with the help of the CNP identification number or were not necessary at all. At the border, CNRR identified that an increasing number of Ukrainians leaving Romania cite the conditionalities of the new housing support program and the lack of employment opportunities as the main reasons for returning to Ukraine.
- As reported last month, UNICEF conducted a social cohesion survey, which revealed potential tension points between the two communities. Respondents from Romania expressed concerns about financial support for refugees, perceiving it as competition. They also felt that refugees were not sufficiently grateful and unwilling to integrate into Romanian society by finding employment. Moreover, respondents believed that refugees from Ukraine received preferential treatment with more support compared to other

refugees in Romania. On the other hand, respondents from Ukraine believed that there was fatigue among the receiving community in Romania towards refugees from Ukraine. They also thought that the receiving community had received significant amounts of money through the 50/20 Programme.



## Child Protection

### Achievements and Impact

- The National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of the Child and Adoption (NAPCRA) reports the 28,047 children registered in the Primero case management system at the end June. Besides, a total of 6,192 unaccompanied or separated children have been identified and registered in the national child protection system since the onset of the war in Ukraine, out of which 863 children have been provided with alternative care or reunified with their caregivers since January 2023. A total of 10,174 children received individual case management through the efforts of the local DGASPCs and/or civil society partners, with UNICEF support.
- UNICEF and partner the Association for Victims of Sexual Offences (VIS) continued to support the justice system in Romania to become more child-friendly through the delivery of specialized trainings on child-friendly forensic interviewing for prosecutors and forensic psychologists in line with the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) protocol. As a result, the National Institute of Magistracy, Romania's judicial institute, revised its institutional forensic interviewing procedures, which is also benefiting refugee victims from Ukraine in line with integrating humanitarian and development approaches.
- In June, Tdh continued its work in Bucharest, Brasov and Constanta, through MHPSS sessions, educational activities and individual protection assistance (IPA). Overall, Tdh's intervention has supported 626 children in all three cities. In Bucharest, Tdh mobile teams carried on the activities in 7 permanent and semi-permanent centres, as well as schools.
- At locations across Romania, Salvati Copiii continued assisting refugees from Ukraine and its Counselling and Integrated Services Centres and provided case management to 94 adults and 128 children.
- Overall, through extensive network of partners across Romania (Alternative Sociale, ANAID, ANAIS Association, ASSOC, CREIS, FITT, 4Change, AMI, JRS, Lumina Lumii, Paleologu Foundation, PATRIR, Regina Maria, RAA, Step by Step, VIS, YouHub, Youth for Youth, eLiberare, FDP, FONSS, Good Neighbours UK, Star of Hope) UNICEF provided access to safe spaces, protection and support hubs to over 6,000 refugees in the reporting period, with a total of 42,000 since January 2023. Thus, for example, child friendly spaces in Baia Mare, Negresti Oas and Sighetu Marmatiei, supported by UNICEF, ASSOC and local authorities are now 100 per cent functional providing educational and recreational activities for children and mothers.
- CNRR also organized community empowerment sessions and cultural events throughout the country in celebration of World Refugee Day with many refugee children participating. On the same day, Tdh teams in Bucharest and Brasov carried out workshops for mental health awareness. Tdh also organized events in Bucharest, Brasov and Constanta for International Children's Day. Salvati Copiii also organized events for Romanian and refugee children which included art programs and workshops such as sewing op, non-traditional painting methods, facepainting, textile painting, etc.
- Between 9 to 11 June, Ukrainians in Iasi (UII) participated in the annual Children's Festival Sotron, organizing various activities for refugee children, promoting social inclusion and intercultural dialogue.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- RRP partners reported that some county school inspectors express concern/frustration that children who are formally enrolled in a state-run form of education do not participate in classes. As a result, they refuse to issue the certifications requested to apply for the housing financial aid underlining the requirement to effectively take part in school activities once enrolled. That said, RRP partners are increasingly concerned on the actual capacity of the Romanian education system to absorb and meet the educational needs of all refugee children and adults.
- It was also reported that unaccompanied children who are under DGASPC's representation but remain in the care of relatives or family friends cannot access the new assistance program because their representative is a Romanian citizen, who does not fall within the criteria laid down by law for granting these benefits.
- The concept of Blue Dots – the highlight of the response previously – is now in the process of transition towards a “Blue Grid” approach involving a progressive handover of key response activities to the local social protection authorities.



## Gender-Based Violence

### Achievements and Impact

- WHO provided a training to 25 health and Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) partners and 6 WHO staff on GBV core concepts and how to apply guiding principles, increasing capacity to provide frontline response to GBV including PSEA survivors as well as handling cases of disclosure and referral.
- The Sensiblu Foundation (SF) facilitated a hybrid training on how to support a person at risk GBV for 29 frontline staff on 7 June. It also conducted a training on GBV concepts and principles to strengthen the capacity of 22 professionals from DGASPC and local NGOs in Constanta on 21-22 June.
- The Sensiblu Foundation (SF), in partnership with UNHCR, held 8 awareness groups with a total number of 216 participants (174 women, 8 teenagers and 34 children), 22 support groups with 278 persons (224 women, 11 teenagers, 43 children) and distributed 262 dignity kits. Participants discussed sexual violence, intimate partner violence (IPV), mourning after death of a partner in Ukraine, management of emotions (parent-child) and rent issues among others.
- In commemoration of the World Refugee Day, Sensiblu Foundation organized a hybrid information session with the Ukrainian activist Marta Chumalo, Deputy Head and Psychologist at the “Women’s Perspectives Centre” on 19 June. She offered information on legal support in Ukraine and free services for shelter, social, psychological, legal, and medical help hotline. 61 persons attended the session from Suceava and across the country. Awareness raising sessions were parallelly conducted in Rădăuți and Galati providing information and space for community support.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- With the transfer of the Government 50/20 accommodation program to the new housing program, several GBV challenges have emerged:
  - GBV sub-Working Group members identified an increase of SEA incidents in accommodation arrangements. With the conditionalities of the new program, individuals may resort to harmful coping mechanisms. Identified SEA cases require different services including access to SRH and health examinations, and an integrated GBV case management.
  - Signs of denial and control of resources within the household as a form of intimate partner violence (IPV) has been identified through partners activities. In certain households, the availability of assistance is not evenly distributed due to power imbalances influenced by gender dynamic.

- In the condition of education enrolment for accessing new government assistance program, partners have noticed instances where educational institutions require formal authorization from both parents before enrollment. This requirement aims to ensure that both the father and mother agree on the enrollment. However, in situations where households are separated due to conflict, particularly in cases involving IPV and GBV, this prerequisite of authorization from both parents could potentially impede access to household assistance.
- Female-headed households with a high dependency ratio and limited access to language development courses and childcare may experience increased vulnerabilities under the new national protection program. The requirements for receiving assistance in the current national program pose challenges for these households. In interactions with refugees affected by GBV, access to livelihood opportunities has been a major concern due to the aforementioned challenges.



## Education

### Achievements and Impact

- As of 9 June 2023, 24,806 refugee children from Ukraine (RCU) were officially enrolled in the national education system, (65 per cent as audients). The rapid and drastic increase in enrolment requests observed over the past few weeks was largely triggered by the reform adopted through Government decision no. 368 on 26 April 2023, which introduced a conditionality linked to compulsory education (either in Romanian schools or in alternative face-to-face education programmes recorded with County School Inspectorates) in order for RCU and their families to benefit from humanitarian support and assistance offered by the Government of Romania (the “new 50/20 programme”).
- In this context, dedicated support was extended to the Ministry of Education and to County School Inspectorates to help operationalize the new conditionality and to process increasing numbers of enrolment requests. UNICEF concluded additional MoUs with one County School Inspectorate (ISJ Giurgiu), supported County School Inspectorates in Bucharest, Brasov, and Sibiu to digitalize the automated processing of enrolment requests, and helped coordinate the submission of requests from Ukrainian refugee communities through local NGOs in collaboration with County School Inspectorates (e.g. in Bucharest, Brasov, Sibiu, Maramures).
- Meanwhile, support continues to be provided to ensure that all RCU can access quality education services, through diversified learning pathways including or combining inclusion into Romanian schools, online learning, special classes and after-school activities offering learning support (‘learning hubs’) facilitated by Ukrainian-speaking educators or operating in a third language (e.g. English), and facilitating increasingly access to Romanian language classes to prepare integration in Romanian schools. RRP partners continue to promote access primarily to classroom-type education modalities that encourage face-to-face learning and personal interactions, as well as to language courses in Romanian, MHPSS and recreational activities to support their integration, and to facilitate access to online learning when necessary.
- Coordination in the education sector is key, both at national and decentralized levels, to extend the provision of educational services and ensure that refugee children can progressively transition to the Romanian education system. UNICEF pursues the coordination role in partnership with other sister agencies (IOM, World Bank, UNHCR), the Government of Romania, as well as NGOs supporting the delivery of educational services.
- In June, UNICEF initiated the extension of education activities supported through local NGOs as implementing partners to ensure continuity for education services over summer holidays, focusing on preparations for integration in Romanian schools by way of offering accelerated Romanian language

training courses, remedial education, and recreational activities. UNICEF also continued to promote the delivery of sessions on mine safety education in preparation for return. UNICEF also distributed an additional 570 laptops to help install computer labs in schools and learning hubs (particularly for the county of Constanta) and facilitate access to online learning platforms as necessary.

- With UNICEF's support, a total of 63 learning hubs have been operating, including 5 play, learning, and parenting hubs (making a total of 28), 24 education hubs, and 11 youth hubs. This has provided non-formal learning opportunities for an additional 1,741 Ukrainian refugee children, bringing the total to 7,999 since January 2023. Various partners such as Patrir, ANAID, Lumina Lumii, RAA, JRS, FITT, CREIS, Regina Maria, Step by Step, ASSOC, 4Change, Youth for Youth, Casa Paleologu, and FONSS have contributed to these efforts.
- Furthermore, UNICEF has facilitated the training of 90 more teachers and educators to improve their teaching abilities and promote the integration of Ukrainian refugee children. This brings the total number of trained professionals to 417 since January 2023. Additionally, UNICEF has supplied learning support materials to an additional 8,678 children, making it a total of 10,214 since January 2023. This includes the provision of 2,551 laptops (a total of 2,904 since January 2023) in collaboration with HP and the Global Business Coalition for Education, as well as textbooks, learning materials, multilingual conversation guides, and stationery.
- CNRR continues to offer counselling on access to education in Iasi, Galati, Suceava, Constanta and Bucharest. This includes assisting beneficiaries with school/kindergarten enrolment procedure; procedure of recognition and equivalence of studies/diplomas; translation of documentation; and referral to Romanian language courses and other educational activities. In June, due to the adoption of the new Government's assistance programme, more refugees from Ukraine showed interest and requested information and guidance on education related issues. The number of people asking about day-care/kindergarten/school enrolment and university admission increased significantly as a result.
- To date, IOM Romania has printed 2,485 Romanian language manuals and workbooks for adults and children who are attending language courses within IOM premises and across Romania. The manuals are distributed based on requests from County School Inspectorates. Furthermore, the materials are available in electronic format as well: [www.romaniaeacasa.ro](http://www.romaniaeacasa.ro). IOM continues to provide Romanian language courses for children and adults in several cities across Romania, including Bucharest, Brasov, Cluj-Napoca, Iasi, Galati, etc. The courses may also be organized online for beneficiaries that are living in remote areas or small cities. Up to now, 1,712 adults and children have been attending Romanian language courses. Besides, IOM Romania is supporting teachers in schools from Bucharest where Ukrainian children are enrolled with cultural mediators (interpreters). Overall, IOM in coordination with County School Inspectorates has organized 6 training sessions on teaching Romanian language as a foreign language for 142 Romanian teachers and educators in Bucharest, Brasov and Constanta.
- In June, Tdh carried out Romanian language classes in Bucharest (at Malva Center and in Tdh's Resilience Innovation Facility- RIF). In Constanta, Tdh's partner organization (the Centre for Civic Resources- CCR) continued delivering English and Romanian classes for children, youths and adults. Tdh also launched its afterschool programme in Bucharest through the RIF and continued delivering similar activities in Brasov. Overall, the following numbers illustrate Tdh's efforts and contributions in connection with educational activities for the month of June: 97 individuals have benefited from language classes (13 adults and 84 children), 43 children participated in RIF (STEM) activities, and 59 children participated in afterschool-type of activities.
- With UNICEF support, ASSOC facilitated the registration of 108 RCU in Romanian public schools in collaboration with the County School Inspectorate of Maramures.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In view of recent development and escalating number of enrolment requests in Romanian schools, there are increasing concerns on the actual capacity of the Romanian education system to absorb and meet the educational needs of all RCU and adults. While alternative and complementary learning modalities (e.g. education hubs) have been supported to reduce the burden on schools and help children transition progressively to Romanian schools over the past few months, RRP partners are now facing serious



difficulties to secure funding for continuing their operations beyond the current school year, hence facing the risk of having to discontinue the provision of such services from September 2023 onwards, unless additional resources can be mobilized urgently.

- There is a significant shortage of capacity in kindergarten for children between 2 and 5 years old.
- Children with disabilities have a hard time in registering in schools due to lack of space in schools and to the complex procedure of recognizing a disability condition.
- There is a need to ensure the continuing delivery of educational and recreational activities, alongside MHPSS, for RCU despite school closure during the summer holiday period.
- Romanian language courses for both children and adults are critical to ensure social integration and smooth transitioning to the national education system. Their provision needs to be accelerated and sustained in coordination with County School Inspectorates – including through online modalities.
- New guidelines and methodology for integrating RCU in Romanian schools are hence very much needed and expected from the Ministry of Education in preparation for the new academic year, as well as for organizing the delivery of language courses over the summer holiday period. UNICEF and RRP partners have initiated discussions with the Ministry of Education on the same, but such discussions have been put on hold in June due to national teachers' strikes and should be resumed as soon as the situation allows.



## Health and Nutrition

### Achievements and Impact

- WHO launched a Ukrainian/Russian language Viber chatbot on 1 June. The chatbot will provide recommendations and advice to refugees from Ukraine regarding healthcare access.
- On 8 June, fetoscopes procured by WHO were installed at Bucharest Filantropia Hospital. The equipment is essential for the treatment of pregnancies with life threatening complications. The Filantropia Hospital is the only public hospital in Romania performing the procedure and treating refugees from Ukraine as well as women from abroad.
- 500 million lei (EUR 100 mil) NRRP funding will be invested in hospitals in Bacau and Vaslui following a signed agreement by the Ministry of Health on 23 June.
- WHO conducted a hybrid vaccination information day for family doctors at the Parliament Palace in Bucharest on 29 June, in cooperation with the Romanian Association for Pediatric Education in Family Medicine (AREPMF) and under the patronage of the MoH with Prof Rafila in attendance.
- UNICEF continued working with partners (AMI and Regina Maria) to ensure access to vital health and nutrition services for populations affected by the international conflict in Ukraine, particularly focusing on people and children with disabilities. With UNICEF's assistance, more than 500 children and women were able to receive primary healthcare, while over 700 children and caregivers benefited from IYCF (Infant and Young Child Feeding) counselling sessions provided through UNICEF supported mechanisms.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The key challenges highlighted by health partners included a shortage of family doctors and general practitioners registering refugees from Ukraine, language barriers, funding gaps and limited budget allocation for SRH and MHPSS services. Proposed solutions involved:
  - Addressing registration issues and access to health care for refugees from Ukraine by initiating a discussion with the Health Insurance House (HIH) and supporting GPs.
  - Exploring partnerships with private hospitals.

- Improve language barriers by encouraging General Practitioners and medical specialists to accept and use phone translation services.
- Strengthen collaboration and coordination via inviting representatives from health associations and local authorities to future health coordination meetings.
- In Galati, WHO Cultural Mediator emphasized that compensation for medical expenses remains an issue. Some refugees are planning to return home while others struggle to find appropriate accommodation. Ukrainians are generally satisfied with emergency services but facing challenges to find doctors for everyday issues. Lack of trust in healthcare facilities is a major concern, with some refugees seeking medical help in Ukraine or using telemedicine.



## Basic Needs

### Achievements and Impact

- In June, UNHCR conducted a national site monitoring and site assessment in coordination with the Department of Emergency Situation (DSU). The scope of the exercise is to revalidate the list and needs of State facilities for accommodation in order to establish which collective centres are still active prior to the upcoming visits from the Inspectorate General for Emergency Situations at the local level. The site monitoring questionnaire has been sent by SMS and email to around 1,000 locations. Assessing their stock, gaps and solutions will facilitate the identification of “priority 0” centres in the long term.
- Since the beginning of 2023 until 23 June 2023, USD 6,200,000 has been disbursed to the beneficiaries for cash assistance (18,727 refugee families in total). At the beginning of June, around USD 50,600 were paid to PoCs for winterization purposes, whereas over USD 28,000 for 50/20 Programme.
- In preparation for the implementation of the cash for protection programme in Romania, UNHCR held a half-day training for the Bucharest and Brasov enrolment teams (21 individuals) on communication, interviewing and counselling to enhance their skills. UNHCR’s partner Estuar will also provide a half-day session centred on well-being and ways to prevent burn out and second-hand trauma and re-traumatization.
- UNHCR continues distributing core relief items (CRIs) to vulnerable refugees through partners at the local level. Since the beginning of 2023, 125,508 CRIs were provided to refugees. UNHCR partner Patrîr delivered CRIs, including utensils, hygiene kits, and clothes to 103 individuals in Sighisoara. Most of the families came from the areas affected by the conflict in Ukraine. Furthermore, since the month of March until the end of June, UNHCR delivered blankets, quilts, pillows, hygiene kits, wipes and clothes to 66 individuals in cooperation with the refugees community in Bistrita. The recipients of the CRIs were mostly women and children.
- In Bucharest, on 13 June 2023, UNHCR distributed 43 hygiene kits, 29 bed linen, 30 blankets and 55 towels to 96 refugees at Casa Shalom and Siqua Hotel. In Galati UNHCR in cooperation with Direct Distribution and Inima de Copil coordinated the support delivery and distribution of 286 litres of water to 58 refugees. In Constanta, UNHCR in coordination with the Jesuit Refugee Service delivered in total 286 clothes (children and adults) to 128 refugees.
- UNHCR in Galati launched the pilot phase of the area-based assessment that is engaging with public officials and managers of collective centres. UNHCR together with the Department for Social Assistance and CNRR developed an online form for collecting quantitative data. As of 16 June, 84 interviews had been conducted.
- In Iasi, Ukrainian is Iasi (UII) continued to provide up-to-date information about available support services for refugees through its online platform [ukriniasi.ro](http://ukriniasi.ro). A [new article with information about finding housing in Iasi](#) was published in June.

- UNICEF, along with partners like Assoc, YouHub, FONSS, 4Change, Star of Hope, and FDP, ensured access to clean drinking water for over 1,500 individuals. Critical hygiene and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) supplies also reached over 1,500 people. Additionally, to enhance accessibility, two container toilets designed for people with disabilities were installed at RomExpo, the largest service hub for refugees in Bucharest and Romania.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- With more limited funding, coordination on Winterization plans for 2023-24 are required within the respective operation areas.



## Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion

### Achievements and Impact

- The Civic Resource Centre (CRC) continues to support the socio-professional integration of refugees, in partnership with the AFCT, AJOFM and HIAS. It has supported refugees in identifying suitable employment opportunities, based on their profiles and experience, interests and skills through its project “ComUnion”. It also supports refugee job seekers in their communication with employers, throughout the recruitment and hiring process, to ensure a clear understanding between the two parties. Moreover, it provides counselling and guidance to refugees seeking to establish their own businesses, if viable. In addition, it organizes meetings and events with local employers and refugee job seekers. This month, CRC organized a job fair for 400 refugees. The event facilitated hundreds of interviews with employers and several on-the-spot hires, particularly in the hotel/restaurant/catering (HoReCa) sector.
- On 28 June, HEKS organized a well-attended job fair together with National Employment Agency (AJOFM). There were 12 employers present who advertised about 210 vacancies suitable for refugees. A total of 221 refugees from Ukraine participated and applied for some of the available positions or registered employment assistance with the AJOF.
- Ukrainians in Iasi (UII) has continued to promote a healthy and fruitful integration of Ukrainian refugees into Romanian society, and support those looking for a job. During the month of June, UII received and answered more than 30 requests through their contact-centre mainly regarding job offers, the Government assistance program and social aid (food, vouchers etc). Moreover, they provided individual career counselling for eight refugees from Ukraine and established partnerships with four new employers.
- In June, 13 new refugees from Ukraine were included in HEKS EPER’s counselling programme and a total of 38 beneficiaries year-to-date earned employment through the support provided through project. Since the beginning of 2023, 132 refugees have completed Romanian language courses and 25 individuals are currently attending the courses. Through vocational training courses, 70 people year-to-date have completed their qualifications in market demand driven skill areas including HoReCa and beauty/nail technician professions. Finally in the area of entrepreneurial support services, through their Entrepreneurs Grant Programme, HEKS have established 5 funded start-up contracts signed with one remaining in development through a competitive business development plan evaluation process.
- WHO and UNHCR coordinated along with implementing partner PATRIR in Cluj to help identify family doctors who could provide “fit-for-work” medical screenings at the C.R.F.P.A office (regional vocational training centre in Cluj) to facilitate their enrolment for employment assistance and Romanian language courses with the Employment Agency AJOFM Cluj.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The Ukrainian Association in Iasi has observed a concerning issue regarding the lengthy waiting period (spanning several weeks) that refugee job seekers experience when awaiting feedback on their job applications, particularly those submitted to supermarkets. This situation is leading to a high level of stress among the individuals.
- Despite the government's requirement for refugees under the age of 65 to be employed in order to receive assistance, refugees between the ages of 55 and 65 encounter notable discrimination from employers due to their age. Mothers of young children (around 2 to 4 years old) still struggle to find suitable kindergartens. Limited availability and scheduling conflicts between work and kindergarten hours pose challenges. For instance, jobs like supermarket or kitchen work often start as early as 6-7am, while kindergartens open at 8am.
- By the beginning of the month, all refugees under 65 were required to register with the AJOFM. While registration was easy for most Ukrainians, only a few have received job offers so far.

## Cross-Cutting Priorities



### Cash-Based Assistance

#### Achievements and Impact

- During the month of June 2023, UNHCR assisted over 20,500 persons with one-off MPC assistance aimed to support refugees with their housing and other basic needs during the transition period after the end of the government accommodation programme (50/20 Programme). In order to prevent overlapping of assistance to the same households, the refugees identified for one off accommodation support programme, were undergone the deduplication process with IFRC and Romanian Red Cross.
- Save the Children Romania provided financial support for 679 individuals during month of June 2023, through the distribution of 686 multifunctional vouchers, covering following sectors:
  - Education, 221 vouchers worth 450 lei each were distributed to 221 children;
  - Health, 72 vouchers worth 150 lei each were distributed to 72 individuals;
  - Basic needs, 393 vouchers worth 200 lei each were distributed to 386 individuals.
- UNICEF expanded its partnerships with the World Bank on shock-responsive social protection. Both institutions agreed on the scope of UNICEF's complementary evidence generation to assess the readiness of the national social protection system to shocks. The concept of evidence generation and future system strengthening for social protection is coordinated with the Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity. UNICEF launched the process of evidence generation, with the focus on the recent economic/energy and refugee crises to assess the role of the national social protection system in providing response to the affected population. Assessment results and conclusions, as a joint UNICEF and WB product, will be shared with all stakeholders by the end of summer period.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The deduplication is happening only with small number of partners as the deduplication Data Sharing Agreement is not signed yet by partners that providing cash/voucher assistance. More trainings are needed for the organizations participating in the deduplication to further utilize UNHCR the deduplication Tool (RAIS)."
- From April to June, a total of 3,370 people provided feedback through UNICEF's feedback mechanisms and comments mainly focused on changes in the social protection legislation and the new requirements for eligibility in the new accommodation scheme. Most of the feedback highlighted unclear communication and bureaucratic challenges faced by the refugees.



## Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

### Achievements and Impact

- On 14 June, the Safeguarding Hub Eastern Europe organized the Safeguarding Essentials training for staff members of the National Association of the Deaf. A national webinar on administrative investigations was held on 27 June, gathering 38 participants from NGOs, INGOs and UN Agencies. The scope of the webinar was to demystify notions and the process about administrative investigations in the context of SEA and safeguarding incidents ([Safeguarding Resource and Support Hub](#)).
- To celebrate the Pride month, the Safeguarding Hub Eastern Europe organized a regional webinar to present and raise awareness on the safeguarding risks faced by the LGBTQI+ refugees in Eastern Europe. The webinar also served as a space to launch the [Safeguarding LGBTQI+ refugees in Eastern Europe](#).



## Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

### Achievements and Impact

- In June, WHO through Cultural Mediator in Cluj supported U-Rise in delivering Mental Health Gap Action Programme (MHGAP) training and to establish a nationwide network of mental health professionals to respond in emergencies. Local NGOs and international agencies, including WHO, facilitated U-Rise's development of this network across the country.
- The WHO Cultural Mediator in Galati has been facilitating communication between psychiatrists and their patients, emphasizing the importance of seeking specialized mental health care and conducting follow-up to monitor progress. Anxiety, depression, and insomnia are among the common issues addressed. To build trust, the WHO Cultural Mediator organized the commemoration of World Refugee Day and distributed vaccination schedule handouts which caused many beneficiaries asking questions about medical referrals and psychosocial support. Individual consultations are preferred and can be combined with other consultations, with the mediator referring beneficiaries to other agencies and NGOs as needed. Psychosocial first aid is being provided through small interactions both in-person and online, even for those who do not initially seek mental health support.
- Save the Children Romania conducted MHPSS activities in counselling centres and transit points in Bucharest, Galati, Iasi, Suceava, Baia Mare, Timisoara, Mures, Brasov, and Tulcea, reaching over 3,500 children and adults. In June, nationwide social outings were organized, bringing together children from Romania, Ukraine, and other nationalities to foster social cohesion through inclusive group activities. Notable activities included visits to the zoo, a chocolate factory and group games in nature. Additionally, over 35 children and 90 adults received psychological counselling in Bucharest, Galati, Iasi, Mures, and Timisoara. In Iasi, interactive workshops were held for adolescents using a participatory approach and a TeamUp training was conducted for teachers in Piatra Neamt. In Suceava, children engaged in movement-based psychosocial activities, group games, arts and crafts. In Brasov, a group of teachers received training in Psychological First Aid. In Galati, Romanian and Ukrainian children participated in a movie day, nature trips, and a visit to the dolphinarium. In Baia Mare, yoga and dance classes were

offered for all age groups, along with photography workshops specifically for teenagers. At a national level, over 250 children aged 6-17 participated in TeamUp activities.

- Tdh teams worked throughout June in three locations - Bucharest, Brasov, and Constanta - to provide support for children and adults residing in semi-permanent centres and independent apartments. Two trainings on the Tdh MHPSS methodology including MGSC were conducted for 47 individuals. In Bucharest, Tdh continued group MHPSS work in several centres. For Children's Day, all three locations organized events with a PSS component, while workshops for mental health awareness were carried out in Bucharest and Brasov for World Refugee Day. In total, 130 group and 11 individual MHPSS sessions were organized, benefiting 455 children and 48 adults. The Resilience Innovation Facilities in Bucharest and Brasov continued providing children with opportunities to explore 3D printing, vinyl cutters, and other tools combined with a MHPSS component, benefiting 43 individuals.
- IOM, in close cooperation with its implementing partners and other specialized personnel continued to organize individual counselling for adults and children, as well as groups counselling and other activities (e.g., sport play, art-based, celebrations, theatre, etc.) meant to support the interaction between Ukrainian nationals, other third country nationals (TCNs) and host communities. In June 2023, a total number of 605 persons were engaged in socio-relational activities, 65 adults and children attended 79 individual counselling sessions. The team also organized 12 group sessions for 55 persons. IOM organized the second performance of an amateur Ukrainian actors team. The event aimed to bring the community closer and support interaction with the host community.
- World Vision provided assistance and support to families and children displaced through programmes that respond to their immediate needs and facilitate their integration into host communities, with a focus on educational and psychosocial support activities. In June, over 1,350 children benefited from mental health and psychosocial support activities, including community-based psychosocial support activities and focused individual and group psychosocial support. More than 1,200 children and adults benefited from community-based psychosocial support activities across several locations in Romania. However, there is a pressing need for Romanian language classes and support for integration into the community for both children and parents to allow them to enroll in public schools or access workplaces.
- UNICEF's implementing partners: ASSOC, 4Change Association, Independent Midwives Association, Jesuit Refugee Service, Patrir, CREIS, FITT and Youhub provided mental health and psychosocial support services to 1,843 children and caregivers through various service points.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- WHO Cultural Mediator in Cluj underlined the fact that there were challenges in planning long-term activities with refugees from Ukraine during the summer. Some refugees may return to Ukraine before the new school year, creating difficulties integrating into new local jobs and educational/school communities, as mandated by the new Government assistance programme.
- WHO has completed a Capacity Building and Training Needs Assessment with the goal of identifying the needs for building MHPSS capacity among the organizations involved in the Ukraine Response, as well as the training needs of all organizations involved in mental health and psychosocial support. The results of this assessment will aid in designing key training activities for all the targets to help them overcome challenges experienced while providing MHPSS support.



## Youth and Adolescents

### Achievements and Impact

- Programmes designed for youth and adolescent refugees from Ukraine have maintained a focus on social cohesion. To adapt to the uncertainties surrounding the new government assistance program and its impact on the refugees' decision to stay in Romania, these programs actively involve Romanian

adolescents in various components. While most programs typically involve facilitators such as teachers, youth workers, or peer educators to support refugee youth in skill development and community integration, organizations like Junior Achievement (JA), The Award and Youth for Youth (Y4Y) have implemented model activities and events without facilitators in recent months. These events included Buddy-Up (The Award), Hybrid Roots Fest (Y4Y), and demonstration lessons conducted by JA coordinators in different cities across Romania. Furthermore, these three organizations have strengthened their collaboration with local authorities to enhance their efforts.

- During the same period, Youth for Youth (Y4Y) projects reached 5,350 adolescents, including 204 from Ukraine. Junior Achievement (JA) projects engaged 615 adolescents from Ukraine, while the Award platform successfully registered the performance of 90 young individuals, including 5 from Ukraine, on its online platform. Scout Edu Hub facilitated programs and activities for over 100 adolescents from Ukraine per month and secured funding to sustain the hub during the summer, beyond the project's duration with UNICEF.
- Participatory platforms were encouraged through volunteering on Children's Day and Refugee Day: Twenty volunteers from Ukraine currently in Bucharest, Constanta, Galati, Sibiu and Suceava became agents of change in their communities. Through interactive activities and open discussions, they promoted children's rights, U-Report Europe, and a digital knowledge community for Ukrainian youth (Telegram channel @amongteensRo).



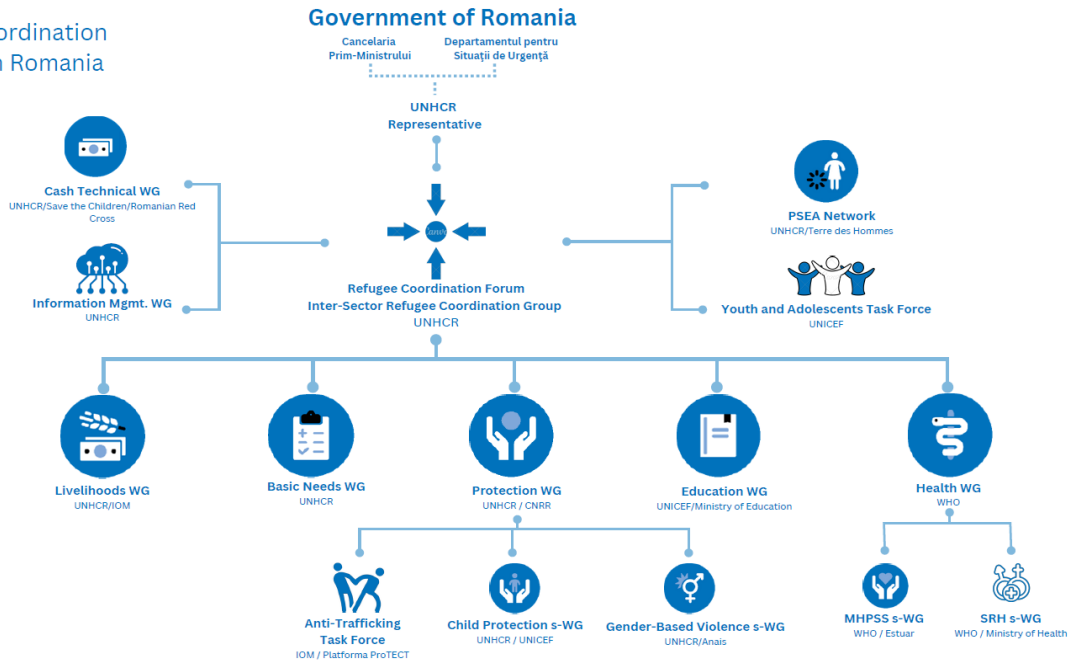
## Trafficking in Persons

### Achievements and Impact

- IOM coordinated with Romania's National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons (ANITP) on the dissemination of an online "toolkit" developed as part of the recently concluded LUPTA Project. The "Toolkit for Victim-Centric Best Practices on Investigations and Prosecutions in Anti-Trafficking Action" will be disseminated electronically among the ANITP regional centres throughout Romania.
- eLiberare continued to implement the Kompass Model among refugees from Ukraine with a focus on reintegration and access to services such as employment, housing and labor market. Activities included: 152 safety plans in Bucharest and Suceava; 169 persons attended info sessions in Bucharest, Suceava and Brasov.
- The Association for Victims of Sexual Offences (VIS), with the support of UNICEF, set up the first special room for interviewing victims or witnesses of organized crime offences, such as trafficking in human beings, child abuse materials, and/or sexual exploitation of minors at the headquarters of the Directorate for the Investigation of Organized Crime and Terrorism (DIICOT) in Bucharest. Combined with ongoing trainings of prosecutors and forensic psychologists, these efforts will contribute to better protection of child victims of trafficking and other forms of violence/exploitation in the justice system.
- The Ukraine House Cluj organized a comprehensive training on counter-trafficking, focused on labour market exploitation, sexual exploitation, and abuse, presented by ProTect. The event was attended by representatives from Justice and Care in Romania, HEKS EPER, staff members of PATRIR, and members of the Ukrainian community.

## Working in partnership

Refugee Coordination Structure in Romania



## CONTACTS

**Sebastian Der Kinderen**, Senior Inter-Agency Coordination Officer, Romania

[kinderen@unhcr.org](mailto:kinderen@unhcr.org), Cell +40 725 566 165

**Rozita Roghani**, Associate Reporting Officer, Romania

[roghani@unhcr.org](mailto:roghani@unhcr.org), Cell +40 723 261 356

## LINKS

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