# WHO Romania Newsletter
# July 2024

**July 2024 Highlights**

- WHO Romania, in cooperation with the European Observatory on Health System and Policies, convened key national stakeholders including Minister of Health Professor Alexandru Rafila and Secretary of State Professor Adriana Pistol, for a policy dialogue on cervical cancer screening.
- 53 doctors and health managers from Constanța and Cluj WHO Romania participated in trainings on how to support GBV survivors, conducted by WHO Romania in collaboration with the National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men (ANES) and the Eastern European Institute for Reproductive Health (EEIRH).
- WHO Romania, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, organised a Cybersecurity Symposium to discuss best practices for safeguarding patient data and digital medical systems.

# Emergency Response

## WHO  Translation Hotline

The WHO UKR-ROM Translation Hotline for medical consultations provided services for 280 Ukrainians over the past 3 months.

User feedback has been highly positive, as evidenced by the following reviews:

We have repeatedly used the free medical translation service. We are incredibly grateful to the translators for their friendliness and professionalism. The service is simple and easy to use. Communication with the doctor is greatly improved, because even with knowledge of English, you can't always communicate on medical topics, explaining the symptoms.

Анна Новацкая
Ukrainian Patient

I would like to express my sincere gratitude and admiration for the work of the translator who supported a visit to the psychologist. The translation was performed at the highest professional level, contributing to a comfortable and productive atmosphere during the consultation. The translator demonstrated exceptional **attention to detail and an understanding of the importance of accuracy in conveying information, which is particularly crucial in such delicate and sensitive situations**. His ability to translate promptly and accurately ensured clear and complete understanding between our beneficiary and the psychologist. I would like to specifically highlight the translator's respectful and tactful attitude towards both parties, as well as his ability to maintain confidentiality and neutrality, which fostered trust and openness in communication. We are very satisfied with the quality of the services provided and highly recommend this service for similar tasks. Thank you for your professionalism and high-quality work!

Mykola Koltun
NGO Partner

## Support for Accommodation Centres

WHO Romania met with the Romanian General Inspectorate for Immigration following the country office's visits to 6 immigration centres. The meeting provided an opportunity to organise the upcoming training sessions on supporting survives on mental health, infection prevention control, sexual health and gender-based violence which will capacitate all staff members to deliver appropriate support for residents.

## Emergency MHPSS Guidelines

The WHO Country Office in Romania has translated key mental health guidelines into Romanian to support the humanitarian response as well as the national health system. This initiative is designed to improve the quality and accessibility of mental health services for displaced individuals and ensure that they receive the required comprehensive support.

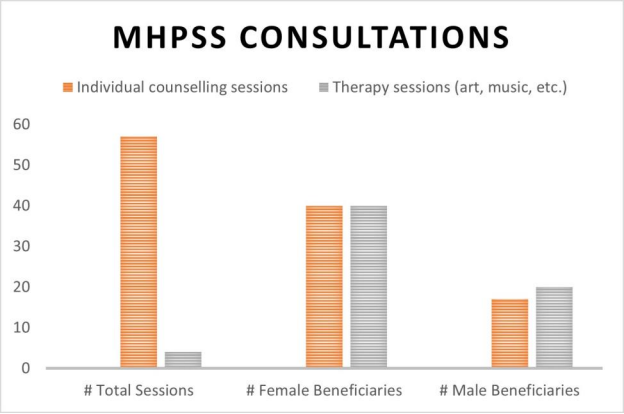
## GBViE Workshop in Moldova

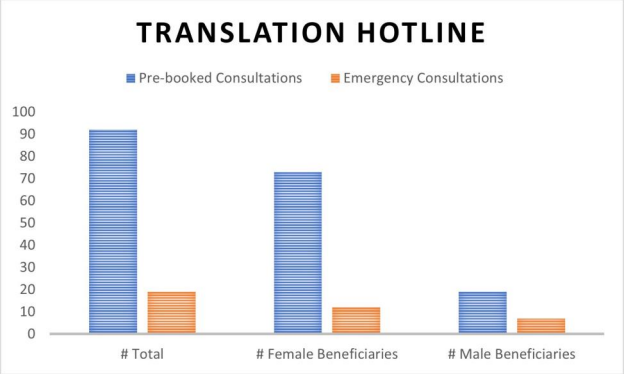
WHO Romania GBV focal points attended the "Measuring Progress on GBV in Emergencies and Strategic Planning Workshop," organized by WHO EURO between 24-25 July.

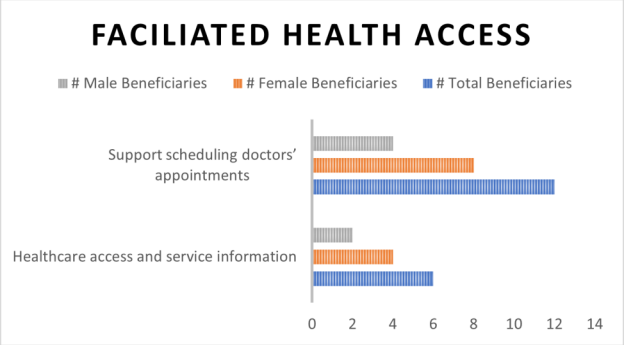
The Romania country office highlighted its key achievements, challenges, lessons learned, and future priorities and discussions focused on sustainably building national capacity, integrating GBV into health care and other work streams, enhancing collaboration with the Ministry of Health, and implementing quality assurance tools.

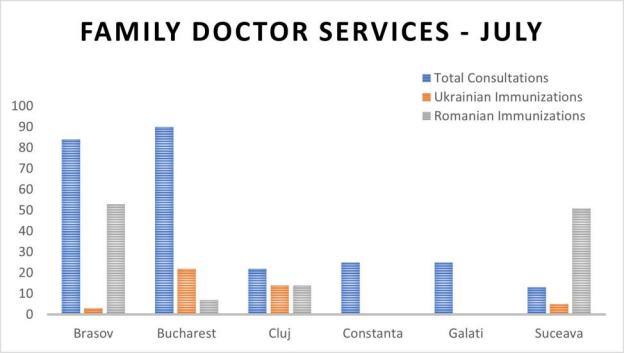
## Data Insights July 2024

- WHO cultural mediators delivered 57 individual psychosocial support sessions and organised 4 art, music and cultural group therapy sessions attended by 60 Ukrainians.
- WHO cultural mediators also directly supported 18 Ukrainians with accessing national healthcare services.
- The new WHO translation hotline provided 117 translations for medical consultations throughout July.
- WHO supported family doctors in Bucharest, Suceava, Galati, Constanta, Cluj and Brasov delivered 275 primary healthcare consultations to Ukrainian refugees including 44 essential childhood vaccinations.






## Inter-Sector Working Group

WHO Romania attended a special meeting of the Inter-Sector Working Group in cooperation with representatives from the Moldavian government and UNHCR Moldova to explore conjoined preparedness planning for the Ukraine response.

This collaboration aimed to strengthen coordinated strategies for addressing the needs of Ukrainian refugees and ensuring effective health and humanitarian responses in the region. By pooling resources and expertise, the participants sought to enhance the overall resilience and efficiency of the support systems in place.

# National Recovery & Resilience Plan (NRRP)

## Human Resources for Health

On 5 July, the Ministry of Health in collaboration with WHO Romania invited key health stakeholders, including young doctors and those intending to return to the country to a NRRP (Recovery and Resilience Plan) event in Bucharest. The discussions let to a series of proposals aimed at attracting and retaining workforce in underserved areas.

Following the kick-off meeting in Bucharest, best practice examples for workforce attraction and retention were collected in Brașov, Timiș, Iași, Călărași and Argeș which will result in a comprehensive

report and proposed guidelines for local authorities in remote and underserved areas alongside a set of legislative recommendations for the Ministry of Health.

## Data and Digital Health

A Health Cybersecurity Symposium was organised by the Ministry of Health, with the support of WHO Romania, on 18 July. Health care professionals from Romania and international cybersecurity experts shared common concerns and practical solutions for safeguarding digital medical systems and devices.

## Quality of Care

WHO Romania and the WHO Quality of Care Office in Athens filmed testimonials from health professionals of the 5 hospitals involved in piloting the 25 quality of care indicators who talked about their experiences and the technical process involved. The testimonials will be part of the training materials available to hospitals seeking guidance on how to implement the indicators.

## NRRP Communication Campaign

The Ministry of Health, with the support of WHO Romania, launched an integrated communication campaign to promote the changes in Health brought by NRRP. The campaign includes TV and Radio Spots, outdoor billboards, social media and digital adverts and aims to raise the awareness on the impact the reforms and investments under the NRRP health and digitalisation components have on strengthening the Romanian health care system.

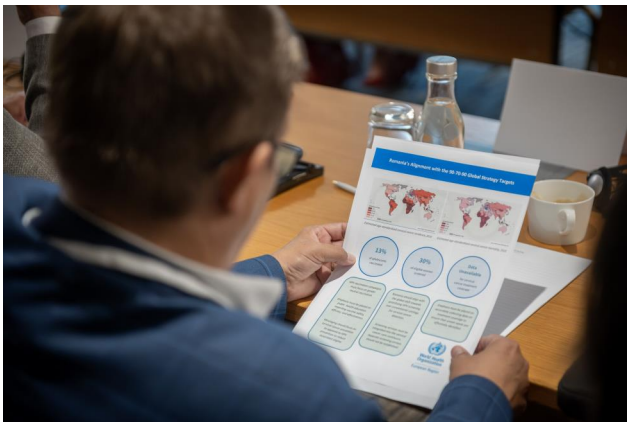
## Country Office Events & Communications

### Policy Dialogue Cervical Cancer Screening

**The Policy Dialogue on Cervical Cancer Screening event organised on July 3 aimed to address key issues in cervical cancer screening in Romania.**

Decision-makers from the Ministry of Health, including Health Minister Professor Alexandru Rafila and Secretary of State Professor Adriana Pistol, as well as representatives from the National Institute of Public Health, the National Institute of Health Services Management, and other key health entities were brought together by WHO Romania, in collaboration with the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies to address key policy issues related to cervical cancer screening. The resultant executive

summary from the event has been approved by the Ministry of Health and National Public Health Institute and will be shared in due course.



## WHO Romania Annual Report

The 2023 Annual Report of the WHO Country Office in Romania is now available on the WHO Romania Country Office webpage:

https://www.who.int/romania

## Stay in Touch

World Health Organization Country Office in Romania

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