



Romania

September 2024

Since the start of the international armed conflict in Ukraine which has forced more than 6 million people to flee their homes to seek safety, protection, and assistance across Europe, of which more than 173,000 have obtained temporary protection in Romania. The Government and partners including civil society, the private sector, volunteers, and international organisations have responded to the crisis with generosity and hospitality.

UN agencies and NGOs, support the national response in coordination of humanitarian actors under the framework of the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) and through the Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) and sector working groups. The 2024 Romania RRP is aligned with the Government National Plan of Measures (NPM) for the protection and socio-economic inclusion of refugees from Ukraine.

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

KEY FIGURES*

6.19 M

individual refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe.

172,475

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

67

percent of refugees are women and children.

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

USD 117 M

Romania financial requirements

USD 34,3 M

Funding received against the Appeal (Q2)

37

Appealing Partners in the Romania response

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

Operational context

Since 24 February 2022, more than 6 million people from Ukraine have sought refuge across Europe. As of 30 September 2024, the Romanian General Inspectorate for Immigration (GII) reported that 172,475 Ukrainians and third country nationals obtained temporary protection in Romania, which provides access to healthcare, education, and the labour market.

During September, the Inter-Agency Coordination Team provided training to 30 organizations that submitted an “expression of interest” to appeal for the Refugee Response Plan 2025/2026 while holding RRP orientation sessions for an additional eight local organizations. In the meantime, the thematic sectors began to discuss their strategies and priorities for 2025/2026, with dedicated sessions held in the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) sub-Working Group and the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Network.

RRP partner Society for Education on Contraception and Sexuality (SECS) – sexual and reproductive health services.

Since 2022, The Society for Education on Contraception and Sexuality (SECS) has helped Ukrainian refugees, especially women from vulnerable groups, to access sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, products, and information. SECS facilitated access to gynecological services including consultations, ultrasounds, abortions, IUD insertions and extractions, Pap and HPV tests for women and girls. So far in 2024, Over 130 women were supported with access to gynecological services, 500 dignity kits with personal hygiene products and baby-caring kits were distributed, as well as contraceptive pills, condoms, and emergency contraception, and over 45,000 women were reached with information about available sexual and reproductive services and products.



M., a Ukrainian woman assisted by SECS said, “Even in displacement we have healthcare needs. In Romania we faced ignorance of the environment and ignorance of the social system. We thank the Government of Romania and the Romanian people for the support that we receive each day. The language barrier is a big problem, but thanks to SECS’ intervention we could access much-needed medical care in a timely manner thanks to interpreters provided by the NGO. All assistance provided was provided free of charge, including medicine prescribed by the doctor.”

During the humanitarian response SECS worked closely with refugee centres, enabling the NGO to reach vulnerable groups, including the Roma community, women with children who struggled to find affordable accommodation, women with mental health needs, and women with limited education, including illiterate women. Ukrainian refugees especially women continue to face many barriers in navigating pathways to care and accessing sexual and reproductive health in Romania, but the limited funding makes it difficult for organizations like SECS to meet the essential SRH needs of communities affected by the ongoing situation in Ukraine. SECS continues to offer timely support for Ukrainian women and collaborate with other NGOs to respond to requests for help, but SECS’ capacity to offer support will be limited as long as funding is not secured.

The Inter-Agency Coordination Unit together with the Protection Working Group developed a [dashboard](#) mapping access to social assistance for holders of temporary protection following the adoption of Emergency Ordinance no. 96/2024. The tool is intended to be used by partners to monitor effective access to social benefits by temporary protection holders and map potential challenges, and to inform advocacy efforts at a local and national level. It allows a detailed localization at the municipality level and the tracking of the types of challenges an applicant has faced.

On 27 September, the Inter-Agency Coordination Unit held a working session together with working group sector leads to discuss the preliminary data of the Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS) 2024 (formerly known as the Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment). The discussion covered details of the findings by sector and refinement of its presentation. Three RRP partners, namely the Romanian Centre for Comparative Migration Studies (CSCM), the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR), and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), were involved in the data collection, surveying a total of 1,008 households. The findings of the SEIS will inform the development of the RRP 2025-2026.



Protection

Achievements and Impact

- Decision No. 1,178 of 25 September 2024, “for establishing the amount, conditions, and mechanism for granting lump sums according to Government Emergency Ordinance No. 96/2024 regarding the provision of humanitarian support and assistance by the Romanian state to foreign citizens or stateless persons in special situations, coming from the area of the armed conflict in Ukraine”, was adopted. Two CNRR recommendations were included in the decision: the inclusion of pension-age individuals among the previous beneficiaries who are exceptions and do not need to be registered with the County Employment Agency (AJOFM), and the explicit mention that it is possible to contest the decision of the allocation of lump-sum payments.
- Following the issuance of the Ministry of Education Order No. 5679/2024 “regarding the approval of the composition of the Commission for coordinating the activity of assigning preschoolers/students to the educational units where they can carry out educational activities, as well as in the institutions where they will benefit from psycho-pedagogical assistance and counselling, of the procedure for its organization and operation and for the approval Procedures for enrolling as listeners in the courses of the educational units of minors in special situations who come from the zone of armed conflict in Ukraine and enter the territory of Romania”, UNHCR and CNRR submitted a set of recommendations aiming at removing the de facto barriers and challenges faced by refugee students in accessing the national exam and Baccalaureate. The recommendations, which build on discussions held during a national conference held on 30 July in the presence of the Ministry of Education, NGOs and UN agencies, aim at adapting the exam procedure to the current refugee situation in Romania, including, among others, allocating extra time or support due to language barriers intrinsic to the process or exploring alternative evaluation methods adapted to the actual language level of refugees sitting in the exams, in comparison to their Romanian peers.
- UNHCR submitted to the Legal, Appointments, Discipline, Immunities and Validations Commission of the Romanian Senate its observations regarding the draft law L416/2024 “Draft law for the approval of the Government's Emergency Ordinance no. 100/2024 regarding the modification and completion of the Romanian Citizenship Law no. 21/1991, as well as for the modification and completion of other normative acts”. UNHCR's observations relate to access to naturalization for beneficiaries of subsidiary protection and stateless persons on the one hand and the need to introduce stronger safeguards against statelessness in line with obligations arising from the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness on the other hand.
- As part of the UNHCR planning process, a total of 43 Focus Group Discussions have been conducted across Romania, gathering more than 350 persons, namely, adult men and women, older persons, persons with disabilities, members of the Roma community, youth, and children to reflect on their needs and priorities and align UNHCR's programmes and interventions with it. In addition, UNHCR has conducted a prioritization exercise

relying on online awareness sessions and a prioritization survey, where 1,073 respondents have conveyed their preference for relevant interventions, services and strategic direction for UNHCR in 2025.

- CNRR provided 367 counselling sessions through its Call Centre and 1032 counselling sessions throughout the country in all their offices and points of assistance. In addition, information and/or counselling was provided to people at the border on 1747 occasions.
- Terre des Hommes continued its work in Bucharest and Braşov, as well as in Constanţa together with its partner the Civic Resource Centre and in Baia Mare with City Makers. Their activities consisted of individual and group mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS) sessions, inter-cultural classes, and life-skills development, adapted information, referral, case management, and individual protection assistance (IPA). 209 adults benefited from individual mental health consultations or group support activities and participated in MHPSS community events alongside with their children. 147 adults were supported with tailored information and, from those, 42 were referred to health, social welfare, and legal services, or are supported through Terre des Hommes' case management.
- To promote social cohesion and interactions, on 27 September, Save the Children organized a visit to the Dolphinarium, Micro-reservation, and Exotic Birds exhibit at the Natural Sciences Museum Complex in Constanta for 42 Romanian and Ukrainian children. The visit provided a hands-on learning experience about the flora and fauna of Dobrogea, enhancing the children's understanding of both aquatic and terrestrial wildlife. The trip also fostered social integration, as new friendships were formed between Ukrainian and Romanian children.
- In Bucharest, Save the Children organized a floral workshop for 15 Ukrainian and Romanian children, led by a certified floral designer. The workshop aimed to nurture the children's creativity and aesthetic sense. Participants created mini flower gardens and learned about various flowers and how to care for them.
- Save the Children also continued its summer camps in September with two camps in Poiana Braşov for children aged 7-12, including those from disadvantaged Romanian families. Another camp was held at Voroneţ in Bucovina for teenagers aged 13-17 and was organized by the teenagers themselves. Both camps offered opportunities for personal growth, social integration, and the formation of new friendships.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Inconsistent practices in the application process for social benefits following the adoption of Emergency Ordinance No. 96/2024 are currently being reported. As a result, a tool was developed at the Interagency level to monitor the process, identify bottlenecks, and conduct targeted advocacy.
- There are inconsistent practices in the counties where partners operate regarding the acceptance of applications for social scholarships for attending audients. An official letter to the Ministry of Education is being prepared to clarify the eligibility and resolve the issue of whether audients can receive social scholarships.
- Difficulties continue to be reported in identifying accommodation spaces/units for beneficiaries.



Child Protection

Achievements and Impact

- As part of their strategic collaboration framework, UNHCR and UNICEF conducted a joint field mission to Vâlcea county, meeting with local authorities to assess the situation of refugees in the area. They focused on key areas such as accommodation, access to social benefits, child protection, and education, aimed at gaining a better understanding of the situation of refugee children. Some issues requiring further analysis and support relate to information available and understanding by refugee on the new Government assistance programme, securing housing, as well as access to national education system and related support, such as scholarships.
- UNHCR conducted a training session for local child protection authorities and NGOs in Suceava, attended by 40 participants. The session focused on child protection principles and UNHCR's Best Interests Procedure (BIP),

aiming to enhance the capacity of participants in safeguarding the rights and well-being of children. The session facilitated better identification of at-risk children, improved coordination among institutions, and strengthened implementation of protective measures by adhering to the concepts of the (BIP).

- UNICEF continued its collaboration with county and local authorities to improve coordination and expand access to services for refugee children and families. They also maintained their focus on monitoring unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), as well as those evacuated from Ukrainian residential institutions. Efforts included cross-border communication and coordination with Ukrainian authorities to enhance the quality of services and long-term care for evacuated children. Additionally, UNICEF continued provision of direct support to the General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC) in Iași to care for children hosted at the Bucium Centre.
- NGO eLiberare together with UNICEF support, provided training sessions to approximately 80 professionals from five counties (Bacău, Botoșani, Brașov, Dolj, and Vaslui) on implementing the "Practical Guide for Specialists in the Identification and Referral of Child Trafficking Cases." This initiative established internal reporting channels and strengthened local partnerships with institutions involved in supporting child trafficking victims.
- Terre des Hommes continued its work in Bucharest, Baia Mare (with City Makers), Brașov, and Constanța (with the Civic Recourse Centre), offering individual and group MHPSS sessions, inter-cultural and life skills activities, referrals, individual protection assistance, and case management. The Resilience Innovation Facilities (RIFs) in Bucharest, Brașov, and Constanța provided creative outlets like 3D printing and vinyl cutting, benefiting 58 children through digital skills activities. In total, 440 children participated in MHPSS sessions and inter-cultural learning, 245 of whom engaged in RIF activities. Additionally, 77 children received tailored information and referrals, while 166 were informed about children's rights and access to services in Romania.
- Save the Children reached 1,320 Ukrainian refugee children, delivering essential services such as social evaluations, counselling, and referrals across its hubs and counselling centres in Bucharest, Baia Mare, Galați, Iași, Suceava, Timișoara, and Tulcea. Additionally, 118 new children were registered for services during the month. To further support vulnerable families in Băile Olănești, Călărași, Ocnele Mari, and Râmnicu Vâlcea, Save the Children's mobile teams conducted social assessments to identify specific needs and distributed backpacks with school supplies and vouchers, helping families prepare for the school year and ensuring children have the necessary materials for their education.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is a need for enhanced support to help refugee children and parents with school integration, as they face challenges such as language barriers and navigating the Romanian school system, along with the need for tailored assistance including emotional support and guidance to ensure a smoother transition.



Gender-Based Violence

Achievements and Impact

- On 19 September and in its capacity as chair, UNHCR hosted the GBV Sub-Working Group meeting with key stakeholders, including Sensiblu Foundation, the National Agency for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men (ANES), Plan International, ANAIS, HIAS, and UNFPA. The meeting focused on members' proposed prioritisation of GBV services for the upcoming two-year Refugee Response Plan, addressing critical gaps in GBV support. A consensus emerged to prioritize services for individuals at risk and survivors, particularly in Case Management and capacity building around the national GBV Case Management Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), which are in development and endorsed by ANES. Participants also agreed that MHPSS should remain a crosscutting priority in all GBV interventions. Through the GBV Sub-Working Group within the scope of the Inter-

Agency coordination platform, UNHCR ensures synergy among the GBV activities implemented by humanitarian partners.

- On 27 September, the WHO Country Office in Romania, in collaboration with the Association for Victims of Sexual Offences, organized a pivotal advocacy workshop at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Iuliu Hațieganu" in Cluj-Napoca, aimed at advancing the integration of GBV modules into medical university curricula. The event emphasized the need to recognize GBV as a widespread public health issue and highlighted the critical importance of specialized education to better prepare healthcare professionals in managing GBV cases. It also showcased the progress made by GBV partners in mainstreaming GBV within the health sector, marking a crucial step toward ensuring that future doctors are equipped to provide appropriate care and support to GBV survivors.
- On 26 September, UNHCR and Sensiblu Foundation organized a collaborative roundtable with local authorities in Vâlcea to enhance GBV prevention and response for refugees from Ukraine. The event brought together 20 stakeholders, including representatives from law enforcement, public social services, educational services, medical and forensic services, anti-trafficking, and representatives of the refugee community, and provided a platform for in-depth discussions on the challenges faced by refugees in accessing support and protection against GBV. Attendees explored the roles and responsibilities of each sector in assisting refugees and reviewed the capacity for responding to GBV cases, emphasizing the need for intersectoral and interinstitutional cooperation to ensure effective GBV prevention and response.
- Sensiblu Foundation supported refugees from Ukraine through 37 group sessions attended by 499 people in Bucharest, Constanța, Râmnicu Vâlcea, and Suceava. These sessions focused on delivering psychosocial support and specialized information, significantly enhancing participants' emotional well-being and capacity to prevent risk situations. The "Safety is Everyone's Right" campaign advanced awareness on violence prevention in Constanța in collaboration with UNHCR and Romanian Police, focusing on prevention and awareness around trafficking in persons. Sensiblu Foundation also provided 50 hours of individual counselling to 24 persons, including 12 new individuals receiving services and 4 receiving GBV Case Management services.
- Between 2 and 3 September, UNHCR and Sensiblu Foundation organized two Empowerment through Self-Defence (ESD) sessions in Constanța for refugee women and teenage girls from Ukraine, equipping them with essential skills to prevent violence and assert their personal boundaries. During the workshops, 28 participants learned how to effectively set boundaries, confidently say "NO", and understand their reactions during instances of physical abuse. Through ESD sessions, UNHCR and its partners are placing a strong emphasis on engaging teenage girls in group activities focused on GBV prevention and protection from violence.
- On 11 September, UNHCR, in collaboration with Sensiblu Foundation, held an interactive information session for 19 refugees in Constanța to prevent and respond to gender-based violence (GBV). The session provided a basic orientation on the [SafeYOU app](#), a multi-stakeholder mobile application and platform designed to empower and protect women and girls from violence, and discussions around gender norms and awareness on different types of violence affecting women and girls. Participants took an active role in group discussions on community safety, underscoring UNHCR and its partners' ongoing efforts to raise awareness about concrete access to GBV protection measures.
- NGO Necuvinte held two GBV workshops attended by 32 Ukrainian refugees. These interactive sessions aimed to gradually introduce key topics related to GBV through practical exercises and open discussions. The first workshop focused on gender roles and stereotypes, while the second introduced the concept of GBV, setting the stage for future sessions that will explore specific forms of violence and the resources available for reporting and intervention. As part of GBV partners' efforts to shift attitudes around gender-based violence, participants engaged in discussions and practical exercises that helped them reflect on how societal constructs shape their daily lives. Many became aware that they had unknowingly internalized and reinforced harmful stereotypes, marking an important step in fostering change and raising awareness on GBV issues.
- NGO Anais provided social and legal counselling services to victims of domestic violence. Although the organization no longer has active projects or funding for the Ukrainian refugee community, they assisted one Ukrainian refugee during this period, offering comprehensive social and legal support. Additionally, Anais has remained in close contact with the refugee community formed through previous projects, continuing to offer guidance whenever possible.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is a pressing need to address hate speech targeting Ukrainian refugees through interventions such as engagement with persons displaying resistance to topics related to gender and violence, as they often play a key role in perpetuating harmful stereotypes.



Education

Achievements and Impact

- During September, RRP partners supported the Ukrainian children and their parents for the enrolment in the Romanian education system through information sharing, translations, data entry, organization of Romanian courses, preparation of documentation, discussions with school principals, teachers, parents, visits to schools and hubs, and discussions with key institutions, NGOs, and various entities to solve the issues related to Ukrainian refugees' inclusion. For example, CNRR provided counselling on access to education through its regional offices in Bucharest, Braşov, Constanţa, Galaţi, Iaşi, and Suceava. This includes assisting refugees with school and kindergarten enrolment procedure, procedure of recognition and equivalence of studies and diplomas, and referral to Romanian language courses and other educational activities. During September, CNRR helped Ukrainian vulnerable parents with legalized translation of documents needed for school and kindergarten enrolment.
- RRP partners' efforts focused on local and national coordination, on facilitating increased access to Romanian language courses, extracurricular activities, MHPSS and social cohesion activities. Technical support and advocacy efforts with national authorities concentrated on support for the registration and transition of refugee children to Romanian schools in time for the next academic year.
- UNICEF in Romania engaged with national, county, and local authorities and NGOs to ensure continuity of education support services, including through partnership agreements to help prolong the operations of education hubs and to advocate for the organization of additional Romanian language courses under the leadership of county school inspectorates to meet the growing demand. Educational supplies were distributed to several county school inspectorates as part of the back-to-school activities.
- In September, 50 teachers were trained in trauma-informed teaching tailored for schools with Ukrainian children through UNICEF-supported partnerships. The course was developed by the British Council with the support of UNICEF Romania and endorsed by the Ministry of Education.
- JRS contributed to the development of the regulation on educational benefits, which was officially disseminated through the government [information service for Ukrainian refugees who want to integrate in Romania](#).
- In September, efforts to provide technical support and feedback continued, leading Bucharest Municipality School Inspectorate (ISMB) to begin the documentation process for Romanian language courses, including testing for those who had previously studied Romanian.
- Through dedicated support extended to the ISMB and the Education Desk at Romexpo, an additional 443 enrolment requests were registered for Bucharest in September. ISMB issued and the distribution decisions for enrolment applications received by over the summer, with details on the enrolment process published on the [ISMB website](#).
- UNICEF's partnership agreements with the British Council, FITT, HoltIS, JRS Romania, PATRIR, Step-by-Step, and Sus Inima continued to help deliver complementary and alternative education services and supporting parents in cities hosting large refugee communities, including through hubs, benefiting several thousand Ukrainian refugee children with continued support towards progressive integration in Romanian schools and a stronger focus on Romanian language courses. Furthermore, UNICEF supported the operations of 23 play and learning and parenting hubs for children in early years education, through the collaboration with the NGO Step-by-Step.

- JRS' activities focused on the start of the new academic year, including at the after-schools replacing former educational hubs hosted at state schools in Bucharest (School No. 95, Ienăchiță Văcărescu and Mihai Viteazu), as well as Brașov, Constanța and Galați, with special attention paid to enrolled pupils or audients to get further support towards integration. The activities were implemented in close cooperation with the county school inspectorates, by ensuring a better dissemination of relevant and reliable information towards parents and children, as well as individual counselling and active monitoring.
- JRS advocated for the organization of additional Romanian language courses or proficiency tests under the leadership of county school inspectorates in Bucharest and Constanța. JRS also distributed educational supplies in both areas to schools hosting enrolled pupils or audients.
- JRS provided education services for 215 children in former educational hubs in Bucharest, Brașov, and Constanța through a UNICEF project, with a team of 23 mainly Ukrainian teachers. Three Ukrainian psychologists will provide further support for integration for Ukrainian children in host schools by having close cooperation with school counsellors. The project also covers educational and recreational activities organized at Romexpo and Pipera Hub.
- Under an Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) funded project, JRS implemented various activities in Constanța and Galați, including education for both children and adults (extended towards all categories of migrants with legal stay in Romania, not only temporary protection holders), also covering the counties of Brăila, Bacău, Tulcea, Vaslui, and Vrancea, with four teachers organizing daily Romanian language courses in various formats. Romanian online classes were organized with the support of six Romanian teachers for 1,318 children from 35 locations in Romania (out of which 65 per cent are already enrolled in the Romanian education system) under the Entreculturas and Caritas projects. In Constanța, JRS organized activities under the Științescu project (IT workshops), aimed at providing learning support to all migrant children. JRS also contributed to the debate on opportunities for cooperation of inclusive projects of minorities, organized by the Union of Ukrainians in Romania, who opened in September its branch in Constanța, involving also NGOs assisting locally the community of Ukrainian refugees.
- World Vision Romania restructured its project dedicated to supporting refugee children from Ukraine. The project currently operates in four socio-educational centres located in Bucharest, Constanța, Cluj, and Suceava, providing ongoing support to nearly 200 refugee children, with an increase in the number of children assisted expected in October. This month, the centres that have maintained the "Happy Bubbles" program focused on various aspects to ensure holistic skill development. These include remedial classes, homework support, preschool activities, and access to non-formal education workshops. The workshops cover Romanian lessons, child protection, MHPSS, and integration activities. Interactive games and role-playing were utilized to encourage active participation in dialogues and discussions.
- Terre des Hommes continued its humanitarian efforts in Bucharest, in Baia Mare in partnership with City Makers, Brașov, as well as in Constanța in partnership with the Civic Resource Centre. Main activities included individual and group MHPSS sessions, intercultural and life-skills development, providing tailored information, referrals, case management, and individual protection assistance (IPA). In Brașov, Terre des Hommes concentrated on various initiatives such as Refugee Integration Facility (RIF) activities, group psychosocial support sessions, intercultural and life-skills development, case management, and IPA. In September, as part of the Educational Programming Activities, 145 children benefited from intercultural learning and life-skills activities in the RIFs, centres, and schools.
- Save the Children is supporting the integration of Ukrainian children through various initiatives. In September, 672 children and youth participated in Romanian and English language classes. After school support was provided to 675 children in eight Baia Mare, Galați, Iași, Maramureș, Năvodari, Suceava, Timișoara, and Tulcea, with special programs in Baia Mare and Constanța to accommodate different needs and promote social cohesion. At the Day Centre in Golescu Grant Manor, 25 Ukrainian children aged 6-11 received comprehensive support, including language classes, homework assistance, and recreational activities. Additionally, 31 adolescents participated in the Children's Club, which offers educational and recreational activities to foster creativity, social skills, and personal interests. Save the Children provides Romanian language classes to help Ukrainian children integrate more easily into their new environment. They also offer homework assistance to ensure students stay on track with their studies and guidance for accessing distance education platforms. Additionally, the children participate in various recreational and outdoor educational activities that promote physical well-being, creativity,

and teamwork. This holistic approach fosters creativity, enhances social abilities, develops practical skills, supports personal interests, and bolsters their academic progress.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There are still challenges related to the efforts to fully integrate refugee children in the Romanian education system. These challenges include limited capacity for places, challenges in the transition from audient to pupil status, insufficient teachers' preparedness to accommodate refugees, continuing language barriers.
- Audient's access to social scholarships requires further clarification. Some educational institutions rejected scholarship applications because the methodology and Ministerial Order does not include the audient category, only children with full pupil status, while Emergency Ordinance No. 96/2024 grants audients' right to apply if they fulfil the requisite conditions.
- Enrolment and repartition in the new academic year encountered delays in processing enrolment requests and distributing children to schools. There is a need to address inconsistencies in the application of social scholarships for children with audient status.
- In Bucharest, ISMB faced significant challenges in the process of enrolment and distribution of Ukrainian children in schools. All requests for enrolment received during summer were processed at the beginning of the school year - a committee met for the new school year 2024-2025 and established the procedure of all requests submitted on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday are signed on Thursday and sent out on Friday. Thus, distribution decisions are signed only once a week and sent to beneficiaries and schools every Friday. Another challenge involved a group at a hub from the Uruguay secondary school where coordinators aimed to assign more than 70 children to the Romanian school in Uruguay, which ISMB could not accommodate due to legislative constraints. After discussions and dialog with the coordinators of the group of Ukrainian mothers, the school principal, ISMB management, the Ukrainian Embassy, the issue was resolved. By the end of September, all the children were successfully assigned to the school.
- In September, JRS organised two surveys: one on educational problems encountered by parents and children on school enrolments in Bucharest and the other one on access to Romanian language courses. The majority of children continue online education in the Ukrainian system (homeschooling or external services) – parents reported delays in receiving answers from ISMB, denial of registration in schools due to the lack of available places in classes, difficulties in enrolment, finding adequate schools, or language barriers. Half of the respondents stated that they have no knowledge of Romanian language, with only few attending courses organised by NGOs. Children also report feeling isolated in schools, bullying, as well as costs of translation for equivalence of studies or transport to locations. Furthermore, temporary residence and the possibility of moving to another city has an impact on school registration.
- Ukrainian parents expressed interest regarding kindergarten and school enrolment. Parents who submitted requests to school inspectorates were keen to know when they will receive an answer about their children's distribution decisions into Romanian educational institutions in light of delays in receiving decisions.
- There is also a need to promote Romanian language courses to increase the chances of audient children to qualify for full pupil status, access to Romanian language classes for adults, psychological counselling for children, and additional places in kindergartens and daycare facilities.
- Parental Involvement and engagement measures need to be improved to include parents in the education system, including providing information and resources in their native language.
- NGO's face challenges in maintaining financial support from donors and the uncertainty of sustaining the support of educational hubs, especially in the light of new data showing that enrolments are significantly lower than for the previous school year.



Health and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- Since its launch in April 2024, the WHO translation hotline has experienced increasing uptake and positive reviews from users. 43 refugees received with interpretation support during medical consultations with a call time of more than 850 minutes in September.
- WHO cultural mediators provided information on healthcare rights and services to 102 Ukrainian refugees, accompanied 105 refugees to medical appointments and directly scheduled 77 specialist appointments in September 2024.
- Access to primary care remains a priority for Ukrainian refugees. To facilitate primary care access for Ukrainian refugees, WHO Romania supports selected family medicine clinics in Bucharest, Braşov, Constanţa, Galaţi, Sibiu, and Suceava incentivizing family doctors' engagement in refugee primary healthcare access. During September 2024, WHO supported family doctors delivered 297 consultations to Ukrainian refugees, including 18 childhood vaccinations.
- Given the high proportion of women in the Ukrainian refugee population, easy access to sexual and reproductive healthcare is paramount. The WHO midwives located in Galaţi continued to provide midwifery consultations for Ukrainian women throughout September and provided referrals to specialized care for 21 refugees.
- Psychological support also remains a key health need for Ukrainian refugees in Romania. Throughout September 2024, WHO cultural mediators delivered 18 individual counselling sessions as well as a group counselling session in Bucharest and Constanţa attended by 26 Ukrainian refugees. WHO cultural mediators also organized three art and music therapy sessions, which have been highly effective in addressing stress and anxiety among the Ukrainian community.
- WHO Romania also leverages digital channels to disseminate material on healthy living among the Ukrainian community. In September 2024, topics ranging from health access to healthy lifestyles and disease prevention were shared and viewed by over 70,000 Ukrainians.
- WHO Romania cultural mediators attended a training in Latvia for health mediators and navigators between 24-26 September, which focused on applying WHO's competency standards to support Ukrainian refugees. The training addressed person-centred care, overcoming language barriers, and ensuring high-quality, culturally sensitive healthcare to strengthen national healthcare systems.
- WHO Romania has partnered with the Associations of Independent Midwives (AMI) to continue their hotline, which provides personalized information and guidance to refugees on health access and healthy living. In September, AMI supported 228 Ukrainians to register with a family doctor and supported 61 beneficiaries to make appointments with family doctors and medical specialists.
- Save the Children's Counselling and Integrated Services Centres in Bucharest, Iaşi, and Suceava continued to provide specialized MHPSS services via psychologists as part of multidisciplinary teams in September 2024. 20 children and 36 adults received individual counselling sessions, while 76 children and 17 adults participated in group counselling sessions.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Significant information gaps remain for refugees seeking healthcare services, ranging from confusion regarding health entitlements to limited understanding of how to access national health services and impact refugees' abilities to navigate the Romanian national health system and access care.



Basic Needs

Achievements and Impact

- On 3 September, UNHCR and IFRC, in cooperation with the Romanian Red Cross and the Cash Technical Working Group, held a 'Lessons Learned' Workshop on Cash-Based Interventions with the aim of facilitating an exchange of knowledge and good practices to enhance future CBI efforts in Romania. The event also featured a presentation on Social Protection and Sustainability by CALP Network. The attendance included representatives of the Department for Emergency Situations (DSU), the Prime Minister's Office, UN Agencies, international organisations, and NGOs from across the country that were involved in deliveries of cash to Ukrainian forcibly displaced people.
- Save the Children Romania has actively responded to the urgent needs of vulnerable persons by providing essential financial support through voucher distributions to cover basic needs. The initiative consists of two main programs:
 1. Case-Managed Vouchers: A total of 703 vouchers were granted based on a case-managed approach, benefiting approximately 247 families. This support reached 380 children and 323 adults, with each beneficiary receiving RON 630 (USD 137).
 2. Vouchers Based on Social Evaluation: An additional 621 vouchers were distributed following social evaluations, supporting 203 families, including 339 children and 282 adults. Each beneficiary in this group received RON 300 (USD 65).

Assistance was provided in various locations, including Bucharest, Baia Mare, Galați, Iași, Suceava, Timișoara, and Tulcea. This direct aid has played an essential role in alleviating financial hardship and improving the quality of life for individuals and families facing economic challenges in these communities.

- The enrolment for cash for refugees with specific needs concluded on 15 September. UNHCR will continue to issue remaining monthly payments until the end of the year. UNHCR assisted over 2,000 forcibly displaced persons with first instalment. During the reporting period, UNHCR released the second instalment of cash assistance for around 1,500 persons, and the third and fourth instalment for over 700 refugees who were previously assessed and determined eligible for cash assistance.
- On 17 September, the UNHCR met with Ms. Victoria Stoiciu, State Counsellor, the Prime Minister's Chancellery, the Chief-of-Cabinet of State Secretary of the DSU, and the Director General of Social Services at the Municipality of Bucharest. The meeting focused on the way forward to ensure continued accommodation is available for the most vulnerable refugees from Ukraine. UNHCR and DSU provided an overview of the findings of the recently concluded joint site assessment exercise, which referred to the many vulnerabilities of some refugees that are hosted in the collective centres and the critical support that these centres provide for these refugees. The proposed next step of the exercise is to convene meetings with the mayors in key locations – Bucharest, Brașov, Galați, Iași, Suceava, and Tulcea - to present the exercise's findings and seek their participation in the identification of suitable buildings and collaboration with local and national stakeholders to establish these emergency shelter centres.
- Following a fire on 27 September, in which a refugee accommodation facility in Bucharest was damaged and affected 26 refugees (including 12 children) from Ukraine, UNHCR conducted a rapid needs assessment to identify the immediate basic and protection needs for the refugees temporarily hosted at the UBC 22 Centre, managed by the NGO United Beyond Cause. UNHCR delivered around 1,000 essential core-relief items, including clothes, body towels, baby diapers, hygiene kits, and blankets. In coordination with by the GII and the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) at Romexpo service hub, almost all the temporary protection permits were reissued by GII to those refugees who lost their documentation during the fire. UNHCR is coordinating with Estuar Foundation to provide psycho-social support to persons in need of specialized services. A mid-term solution is being sought in coordination with the partners managing other accommodation facilities.

- On 27 September, NGO 4Change and UNHCR met with the Rector and Vice Rectors of UTCB and Association 4Change to discuss the continuation of the University's support in hosting refugees from Ukraine. Since the start of the conflict, the University allocated a vacant dormitory to accommodate refugees and currently, hosts around 100 refugees. The Rector confirmed the dormitory must be closed by 31 October as the building requires significant renovations and what was intended as a temporary solution for newly arriving refugees but has since become more permanent, for which the University can no longer bare responsibility. On 30 September, the University informed the DGASPC Sector 2 of its decision. A meeting will also be organized by 4Change with DGASPC Sector 2, DGASMB, the City Hall Sector 2 and UNHCR to ensure support to the refugees in identifying alternative accommodation options at the beginning of October. With very few collective centres still accommodating refugees in the country, this centre has served as a critical solution for some of the city's more vulnerable refugees.
- During the reporting period, the NGO 4Change supported refugees at the UTCB Refugee Transit Centre with counselling and information sessions. The files for granting the child state allowance were submitted to DGASPC District 2 for a total of 27 children housed at Tei Centre. Additionally, two files were submitted for the granting of child-rearing allowances for children up to two years old. Also, during the reporting period, 21 beneficiaries housed in the Edmond Nicolau Centre received free medical tests through the Association's services.
- During September, UNHCR and partners distributed over 9,000 core relief items (CRIs), including mattresses, body towels, blankets, baby diapers, pillows hygiene kits and adult clothing to almost 4,000 refugees living in Bistrița, Brăila, Călărași, Constanța, Galați, Maramureș, Sibiu, and Suceava. So far in 2024, UNHCR has distributed 75,172 CRIs to 39,730 refugees in Romania.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- With the recent adoption of the Government Decision for establishing the amount, conditions and mechanism for awarding the lump sums according to Government Emergency Ordinance No. 96/2024, partners will be closely monitoring the application of the Decision to identify any potential emerging needs, specifically for those refugees who are not self-reliance and remain accommodated in collective centres a but do not meet the established vulnerability criteria to continue benefitting from the government's assistance program.
- There is a need to address the potential closure of collective centres in the face of reduced funding and finding solutions for the affected refugees. Many of the refugees housed in collective centres are vulnerable persons such as older persons, persons with disabilities, and single parents. They are mostly dependent on assistance and cannot afford the costs of rent and utilities.



Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion

Achievements and Impact

- Following the workshop organised by UNHCR and the Iași Chamber of Commerce, Posh Academy Salon in coordination with World Vision Romania hosted a series of coaching sessions focused on haircutting, colouring, and hairstyling skills development for a group of 20 Ukrainian beneficiaries of various ages between 14-16 September. The training aimed to provide them with professional training and integration opportunities in the hairstyling industry. The coaching organized by Posh Academy not only provided valuable professional training for Ukrainian refugees but also presented a tangible opportunity for labour market integration. Ongoing collaboration between the beneficiaries and Posh Academy Salon opens new perspectives for the professional development of the participants.
- On 29 September, Project Voyager (managing the jobs4ukr.com platform) held a community event entitled "Beauty Pro: Secrets of Success in the Beauty Industry". It brought together more than 35 beauty professionals,

salon owners, and aspiring talents came together to share knowledge, experiences, and opportunities. The speakers are refugee owners of beauty salons and cosmetics stores, many of whom have already opened vacancies. After their presentations, they engaged directly with attendees interested in career opportunities. The event was not only a fantastic learning experience but also an excellent platform for networking and potential employment for the community, with other courses to come through the support of UNHCR and EBRD.

- On 26 September, the Maramureş Chamber of Commerce held a "Livelihoods, Employment, and Integration: Building Inclusive Futures" event in partnership with the Baia Mare Chamber of Commerce. The event brought together 45 participants, including the presence of 10 companies and key stakeholders from the public and private sectors, to explore opportunities for collaboration aimed at supporting the integration of refugees and fostering sustainable livelihoods in the region. The event featured a job fair, and a meeting for refugees that are interested in starting a business.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- On 11 September, the Working Group on Livelihood and economic inclusion held an online meeting on the changes to the legislative framework brought by the Emergency Ordinance no. 96/2024. CNRR and World Vision Romania discussed the challenges and de-facto barriers seen when supporting refugees to access social protection benefits, while UNHCR presented a newly developed tool for mapping of access to social benefits for refugees while Project Voyager presented the communication tool with information about access to social benefits developed for the government.

Cross-Cutting Priorities



Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

Achievements and Impact

- All 36 World Vision Romania staff completed UNICEF's Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) e-learning course (<https://agora.unicef.org/course/info.php?id=7380>).
- World Vision Romania introduced the PSEA self-declaration as part of their human resources recruitment process. The tool helps to safeguard against potentially hiring candidates who were subject to non-criminal sanctions, having left employment pending an administrative investigation and refusal to cooperate in such an investigation. All 36 World Vision Romania staff signed the declaration.
- On September 24, a PSEA training session was conducted for eight new IOM staff members in Cluj-Napoca. The comprehensive session aimed to equip participants with a thorough understanding of PSEA principles, including the organization's policies, reporting mechanisms, and practical approaches to preventing and responding to incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse. The training also emphasized the importance of safeguarding vulnerable populations, promoting a culture of respect, and ensuring accountability within humanitarian and migration-related activities.
- On September 25, the IOM Romania team, in collaboration with representatives from the National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons (ANITP), conducted a comprehensive training session for the Directorate for Social and Medical Assistance (DASM) in Cluj, bringing together 25 participants. The session covered critical topics, including the complexities of migration, the identification and support of victims and potential victims of human trafficking, with a focus on recognizing signs of exploitation and understanding various forms of trafficking, as well as the importance of PSEA. The PSEA component was emphasized, aiming to strengthen the capacity of social workers to protect individuals and communities. The training delved into the crucial role of social workers in preventing and addressing sexual exploitation and abuse, discussing the profound impact of these violations and the essential measures needed to safeguard vulnerable populations.



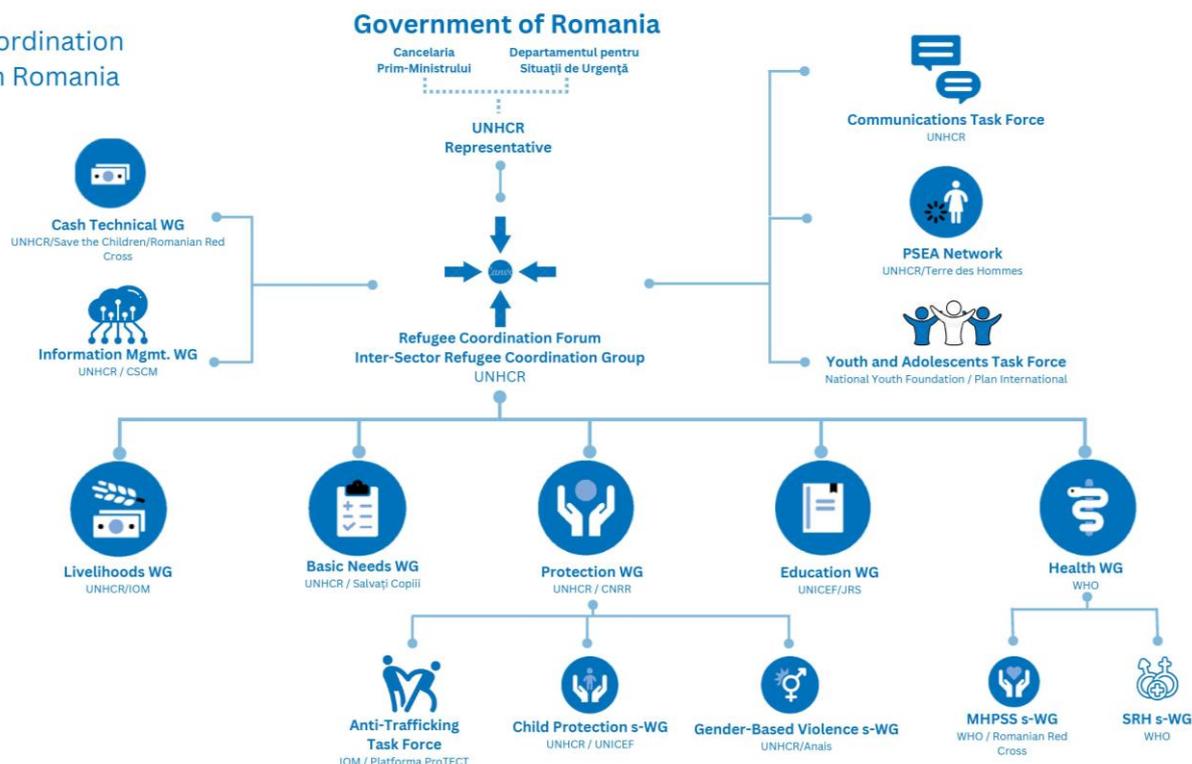
Trafficking in Persons

Achievements and Impact

- During 3-4 September, the IOM Romania Head of Office and the Counter Trafficking Focal Point participated at a meeting hosted by the Romanian Government on organizing the working groups for the implementation of the national strategy against trafficking in human beings. Together with the General Inspectorate for Immigration, and under the overall supervision of the Romanian Government, IOM Romania will facilitate the working groups on the protection of foreigners in Romania, with focus on reducing the risks associated with labour migration. On 17 September, a follow-up meeting was held to present the composition and objectives of the working groups.
- On 5-6 September, IOM Romania joined forces with ANITP, and the Directorate for the Investigation of Organized Crime and Terrorism (DIICOT) as well as with representatives of the civil society for a training session on "Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking," organized for members of the Romanian Police through the Safe Pol association. IOM's intervention focused on the practical aspects of working with migrants, emphasizing the importance of understanding cultural differences, overcoming language barriers, and the role of cultural mediators. IOM also showcased its continuous support through integration projects, assisted voluntary returns, and comprehensive assistance for victims of human trafficking. IOM's presentation emphasized the importance of social inclusion in migration management, aiming for a society where migrants are accepted both as individuals and as a group, and are protected from violence, exploitation, and abuse. Through ongoing collaboration with local authorities, IOM aims to create a positive, participatory environment that is essential for the successful integration and protection of migrants.
- On 24 September IOM Romania participated at the conference organized by the International Justice Mission in Romania at the Palace of Parliament, on the topic of enhancing the penal legislation in the field of counter trafficking. IOM Romania has contributed at this initiative with a proposal for legislation review put together as part of the Leading a United Pathway to anti-Trafficking Action (LUPTA) project.
- In September, NGO eLiberare expanded the [Kompas Model of Intervention](#) with collaborators from the Republic of Moldova and Odesa, Ukraine. The model provides a barrier against exploitation and human trafficking among Ukrainians and third-country nationals displaced by the war, following the journey of those displaced by the war in Ukraine, first at national level, in Romania, and then across as many border crossings as they will have to their chosen destination.

Working in partnership

Refugee Coordination Structure in Romania



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

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

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LINKS

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