



Romania

November 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 (as of 15 October).

175,331

obtained temporary protection in Romania (as of 31 October)

67

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

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

USD 117 M

Romania financial requirements

USD 44,4 M

Funding received against the Appeal (Q3)

37

Appealing Partners in the Romania response

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

Operational context

Since 24 February 2022, more than 6 million people from Ukraine have sought refuge across Europe. As of 31 October 2024, the Romanian General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI) reported that 175,331 Ukrainians and third country nationals obtained temporary protection in Romania, which provides access to healthcare, education, and the labour market.

On 7 November, the Refugee Inclusion Working Group in Suceava held an event to mark **the first anniversary** of its establishment with the participation of 45 representatives from county and municipal authorities, institutions, UN agencies, NGOs and refugee led organizations. Participants reflected on achievements of the Working Group, the evolution of localized coordination efforts since 2022, and the future of coordination within the framework of the RRP. Refugee community leaders shared their experiences of inclusion, giving insights on the impact of coordination efforts in the local refugee response. During a workshop session, participants discussed how to concretely improve coordination practices in 2025. Key points raised included the implementation of referral pathways, more active involvement of governmental stakeholders, and establishing small funding pools. The event concluded with the presentation of certificates of appreciation to members of the Working Group by the Prefect of Suceava County, Mr. Alexandru Moldovan, and the Head of UNHCR's Suceava Field Office, Ms. Andrea Groves.



On 7 November, representatives from county and municipal authorities, institutions, UN agencies, NGOs and refugee led organizations mark the first anniversary of the Refugee Inclusion Working Group in Suceava.

Photo: UNHCR

On 12 November, UNHCR convened a meeting focusing on **local emergency preparedness** in Suceava county, bringing together 19 representatives of local authorities and partner organizations. The aim of the meeting was to strengthen collaboration, map the capacity of stakeholders in Suceava, and provide a platform where participants could discuss and find a common ground regarding preparedness. The meeting focused on creating a coordination structure to support stakeholders and plan for 2025 taking into consideration the challenges and lessons learned from the past years while maintaining good practices.

On November 13, a **local coordination network** meeting was held in Constanța with 25 representatives from various government institutions and partner organizations, including the County Employment Agency (AJOFM), Civic Resource Centre, the General Directorate of Social Assistance (DGAS), the General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC), IGI, the National Agency for Payments and Social Inspection (AJPIS), the Prefecture, Sensiblu Foundation, Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR), the Romanian Red Cross, RO-UA Centre, and Save the Children Romania, UNHCR, and WHO. Participants discussed the results of a recent participatory assessment conducted with Ukrainian refugees living in Constanța, and updates on the implementation of the government assistance programme, as well as the identification of priority measures to address challenges faced by refugees.

On 14 November, a **local coordination roundtable** meeting was held in Iași attended by 20 representatives from UN agencies and NGO partners, including RRP partners. The meeting aimed to address challenges faced by forcibly displaced people in Iași county and to identify potential solutions through stakeholder and service mapping. Additionally, the development of a local emergency preparedness plan was discussed, with stakeholders expressing interest in involving authorities in future roundtables, recognizing their critical role in addressing systemic challenges.

Spotlight on... RRP partner Sensiblu Foundation – providing psychosocial services, legal counselling and representation, awareness sessions and support groups to people at risk and survivors of gender-based violence.

H., a 19-year-old young woman from Odesa, Ukraine, sought refuge in Romania with her mother after fleeing the horrors of war. Settling in northern Romania, they faced not only the language barrier but also emotional challenges that seemed insurmountable. She says, “I would have never thought that someone would hear me out, make me believe in myself again, find hope when I thought everything was lost.” Her healing journey began in the summer of 2023 when she reached out to Sensiblu Foundation for psychosocial support.

Sensiblu Foundation’s team, together with a translator, helped her to navigate the difficulties of settling into a new country and culture. “I learned to set healthy limits not only with my friends but with my family too. I learned to say ‘NO!’ whenever I felt unsafe,” she shares. Through their support, H. gained confidence and learned how to address the emotional toll of displacement and trauma. H.’s story is a powerful reminder of the importance of compassion, support, and community in times of crisis.

Since 2022, the Sensiblu Foundation has provided essential support to over 5,000 refugees across Romania, offering free psychosocial services, legal counselling and representation, awareness sessions and support groups to people at risk and survivors of gender-based violence. Sensiblu’s services are available in Bucharest, Constanța, Suceava, Vâlcea, and northern Romania.

The Sensiblu team holds workshops and advocacy meetings, bringing together hundreds of professionals and local authorities engaged in GBV prevention and intervention. These initiatives aim to improve cross-sectoral cooperation and strengthen the ability of stakeholders to support those in need.





Protection

Achievements and Impact

- In November, protection partners continued to focus their efforts on ensuring that refugees from Ukraine can access both the new lump sum program and social benefits in line with Emergency Ordinance No. 96/2024, “regarding the granting of humanitarian support and assistance by the Romanian state to foreign citizens or stateless persons in special situations, coming from the area of the armed conflict in Ukraine” as well as on protecting vulnerable groups.
- From 30 October to 1 November, the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) together with UNHCR held a training session in Bucharest for 20 IGI staff members, aimed at improving their skills in supporting asylum-seeking children. The training covered children’s experiences in the asylum process, their rights, and the concept of intersectionality. Participants examined case studies illustrating child-specific forms of persecution, practiced communication techniques suited for working with children, and engaged in role-play activities to enhance empathy and understanding. The session concluded with trainer reflections and feedback, equipping participants with practical tools to better address the unique needs of asylum-seeking children.
- Between 5-7 November, CNRR, together with UNHCR and with the support of IGI, organized its annual nationwide workshop for staff working both at the central level and at the different Territorial Inspectorates of the General Inspectorate of the Border Police. Apart from practical exercises related to international protection and dealing with vulnerable refugees and migrants, this year’s focus was on the new legal framework that will be introduced by the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum and more particularly the new screening process introduced through the Screening Regulation. Forty-four participants attended the workshop, including the central and territorial branches of the Border Police and different institutions presented their role and perspectives on the new legal framework.
- During the reporting month, several advocacy initiatives were undertaken: CNRR advocated with the National Agency for Employment (ANOFM) on the inclusion of a dedicated interpretation budget line to assist refugees from Ukraine; with the National Agency for Fiscal Administration (ANAF) to issue income statements for refugees from Ukraine who apply for it, and submitted a recommendation to the Ministry of Family - as part of the public consultation process regarding the introduction of the Youth Card (intended for Romanian citizens aged 14-35), which offers multiple benefits, such as discounts on public transport, courses, cultural events, sports, and accommodation - that youth holders of international protection and temporary protection should be eligible for the card. The National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (ANPDPD) agreed to retain the proposals put forward by FONSS and UNHCR relating to the removal of provisions requiring official translations and legalizations of different documents that were included in the Draft Common Order for approving the medical-psychosocial criteria for determining the degree of disability of adults with disabilities coming from Ukraine.
- On the 21 November, UNHCR held an event in Baia Mare to present the stories of young Ukrainian refugees and the programs implemented in the area. Thirty-seven participants, including representatives of RO-UA, YMCA Baia Mare, NGO Development through Education, Information and Support (DEIS) Baia Mare, UNHCR, youth from the host community, and youth refugees attended the event. Participants shared stories of their experience in Romania, comprising of challenges faced and positive outcomes related to education, social inclusion, and integration in the host community.
- Throughout November, Terre des Hommes continued its work in Bucharest and Braşov, as well as in Constanţa, in partnership with the Civic Resource Centre, and in Baia Mare with City Makers. The interventions included individual and group Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) sessions, intercultural classes, life-skills development, tailored information provision, referrals, case management, and individual protection assistance. In Braşov, the Terre des Hommes team specifically concentrated on Resilience Innovation Facility (RIF) activities, group psychosocial support sessions, intercultural and life-skills development, case management, and individual

protection assistance. 227 adults received individual mental health consultations or attended group support activities and participated in MHPSS community events together with their children, 122 adults were supported with tailored information, of which 62 were referred to health, social welfare, and legal services, or were supported with case management. CNRR provided 303 counselling sessions through the Call Centre, 1,371 counselling sessions throughout the country in their offices and points of assistance, 1,599 counselling and information sessions at the border.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Challenges are reported regarding inconsistent practices in providing social assistance. Notably, difficulties in accessing child allowance and Minimum Inclusion Income with a declared address on the temporary protection permit were raised as concerns in group information sessions with refugees.
- There are ongoing challenges regarding access to health due to difficulties finding a family doctor, language limitations, as well as challenges related to registering on the platform when the insured person presents two different documents to access health services such as when a refugee has requested a new temporary protection permit.
- FONSS and the General Directorate of Social Assistance of Bucharest Municipality (DGASMB) reported difficulties with the digital platform and the application for reimbursement of costs for collective centres hosting refugees that have been accommodated prior to Emergency Ordinance No. 96/2024, as they fit the vulnerability criteria enshrined in the complementary Government Decision.



Child Protection

Achievements and Impact

- CNRR held an event on “Specialized legal assistance for asylum-seekers and beneficiaries of international protection in Romania.” The seminar brought together 32 participants, primarily legal representatives from DGASPCs across Romania, particularly cities hosting reception centres, as well as representatives from IGI. The event focused on enhancing the capacity of professionals working with unaccompanied and separated children in need of international protection, with discussions also addressing the role of legal representatives in the context of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.
- UNHCR held workshops on child protection in Baia Mare and Bistrița with the participation of 45 representatives from local child protection authorities. The workshops aimed to promote international standards on the protection of refugee and asylum-seeking children, featuring an introductory session on UNHCR's Best Interests Procedure, emphasizing the importance of child participation in decisions that affect them.
- On 21 November, City Makers, DEIS, YMCA, and UNHCR held a youth event in Baia Mare entitled "Voices Unveiled: A Refuge for Stories", giving young people from refugee and host communities a platform to share their personal experiences, stories, and aspirations. The event aimed to empower youth and foster mutual understanding, focusing on inclusivity, cultural exchange, and community building. Through storytelling, discussions, and cultural showcases, participants had the opportunity to express their needs and connect with each other.
- Save the Children reached 1,142 Ukrainian children, delivering essential services such as social evaluations, counselling, and referrals at their counselling centres in Bucharest, Baia Mare, Galați, Iași, Suceava, Timișoara, and Tulcea. Of these, 168 children were newly registered for services. Two meetings took place in Baia Mare and Tulcea focusing on the protection of children's rights for Ukrainian refugees, with 39 participants from social services, education, health, and child protection authorities, along with non-governmental organizations. Save the Children's mobile team conducted outreach activities, including an information session in Dorohoi in Botoșani county on preventing addictive behaviours, attended by 4 adults and 6 children. A field visit to Dâmbovița County

assess the needs of 17 families with children from conflict-affected areas in Ukraine, focusing on vulnerabilities related to basic needs, employment, services, and healthcare. Additionally, the Safe Families methodology was implemented in Bucharest and Iași to support positive parenting and prevent abuse.

- Terre des Hommes continued its work in Bucharest, Brașov, together with City Makers in Baia Mare and with the Civic Resource Centre in Constanța, delivering MHPSS sessions, inter-cultural and life skills activities, tailored information, referrals, individual protection assistance, and case management. The Resilience Innovation Facilities in Bucharest, Brașov, and Constanța engaged 72 children in digital skills activities, such as 3D printing and vinyl cutting, alongside MHPSS support. Overall, 759 children participated in MHPSS, inter-cultural learning, and life skills activities, 177 joined RIF MHPSS activities, 109 received referrals or case management, and 62 gained tailored information on children's rights in Romania.
- Autism Voice focused on group social activities, school integration therapy, individual therapy, and parent counselling. Additionally, Autism Voice successfully completed teacher training sessions, reaching a total of 161 educators. The training focused on providing teachers with essential information, counselling techniques, and practical tools to support the inclusion and development of children with autism, particularly in the context of school integration and social adaptation.
- CNRR continued with advocacy interventions: On November 15, CNRR sent a formal request to the National Authority for the Protection of Child Rights and Adoption (ANPDCA) seeking clarification on specific provisions related to unaccompanied children and children cared for by third parties under Emergency Ordinance No. 96/2024, namely on guidance on how the placement measure applies to unaccompanied minors and Ukrainian adults holding temporary protection status, including the procedure and eligibility criteria for these individuals to provide care, and asked clarification on newly introduced terminology.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Specialized therapy remains a significant need among Ukrainian refugees with specific needs. Many children still require continuous support, especially in areas with limited resources. While short-term treatment needs have decreased, long-term support for severe conditions and access to education and employment opportunities remain priority areas.



Gender-Based Violence

Achievements and Impact

- During the reporting month, many activities were planned to mark the 16 Days of Activism against GBV. The East European Institute for Reproductive Health (EEIRH) highlighted the launch of the Pilot Centre for Sexual Violence Intervention in Targu Mureș, one of the 10 centres nationwide initiated by National Agency for Equal Opportunities (ANES). WHO highlighted ongoing efforts to incorporate GBV education in medical universities. Discussions emphasized updating referral pathways and integrating GBV and MHPSS services into broader service provision, ensuring collaboration among the different layers of services. UNHCR and its partners conducted a series of activities aiming at raising awareness on the need to continue fighting against GBV country-wide. Under this year's theme 'No excuse', UNHCR's campaign started with the launch of the Violencemeter presentation and information session for 25 Ukrainian refugees in Constanța, laying the groundwork for awareness and empowerment. In Suceava the "No Means No" workshop empowered 14 women to explore their rights and unite in solidarity, while in Rădăuți 24 women engaged in "Time for Yourself," a reflective session promoting self-care and resilience. In Constanța, 30 refugee women shared personal stories and strategies to confront violence, and a groundbreaking session for men, "Men in the Mirror: Strength Through Understanding," brought 11 refugee men together to reflect on the roots of violence and foster change. At the Emergency Transit Centre (ETC) in

Timișoara, workshops such as “Recognizing GBV”, “Art for Equality and Respect”, and role-playing scenarios on non-violent communication engaged participants of all ages.

- On 14 November, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (IRDO) held an event on "Women's Safety: Combating Harassment and Violence" in collaboration with NGO ANAIS and the Association of Women in Romania - Together (AFRI), ahead of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (on 25 November). The debate addressed Romania's challenges in gender equality and the pressing issues of sexual harassment and violence against women, underpinned by the fact that Romania currently ranks last in the EU Gender Equality Index.
- During the reporting period, Sensiblu Foundation supported refugees from Ukraine through 44 group sessions attended by 663 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 continued to offer a coherent framework for information, and awareness-raising about domestic violence and preventing violence against minors (at home, on the street, at school, and online) in collaboration with UNHCR and Romanian Police. Sensiblu Foundation also provided 28 hours of individual counselling to 9 persons.
- In November, RRP partner NGO Necuvinte organized two interactive workshops on GBV for 41 Ukrainian refugees at the Edmond Nicolau collective centre. The first workshop addressed forms of violence and healthy relationships, teaching participants to identify various forms of violence, understand their regulation in Romania, recognize warning signs, and access protective resources. The second workshop explored personal and public spaces, with a focus on setting and respecting boundaries and addressing street harassment through practical exercises. These sessions not only informed participants but also fostered self-reflection, with participants gaining a deeper understanding of non-physical abuse and male participants gaining awareness on the impact of behaviours they once regarded as acceptable.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Reaching the most vulnerable refugees, often at high risk of abuse, remains a critical challenge due to their isolation and difficult circumstances. Women lacking financial resources and facing multiple vulnerabilities feel compelled to remain in abusive relationships. This highlights the urgent need for improved outreach, increased financial and psychological support, and sustainable housing solutions.



Education

Achievements and Impact

- During November, RRP partners continued to support Ukrainian children and their parents with 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 education hubs, and discussions with key institutions, NGOs, and various other entities to resolve issues related to Ukrainian refugees' inclusion. Data on the enrolment and allocation of Ukrainian children in the national school network is collected at the county level, centralized by the Ministry of Education, and will be shared once validated.
- UNICEF in Romania continued to engage 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 reported by the Bucharest Municipal School Inspectorate (ISMB) and raised at a meeting with county school inspectorates in November. Educational

supplies for 7,700 children were distributed to county school inspectorates in Bucharest, Braşov, Constanţa, Cluj, Iaşi, Maramureş, Mureş, Sibiu, Suceava, Timiş, Vâlcea, as part of the back-to-school activities.

- UNICEF's partnership agreements with JRS Romania, PATRIR, British Council, Step-by-Step, HOLTIS, and Sus Inima helped to deliver complementary and alternative education services and supporting parents in cities hosting large refugee communities including Bucharest, Braşov, Constanţa, Cluj-Napoca, and Vâlcea county, including through hubs, supporting 2,455 Ukrainian refugee children with continued support towards progressive integration in Romanian schools and a stronger focus on Romanian language courses. Furthermore, UNICEF supported the operations of 16 play and learning and parenting hubs for children in early education in collaboration with NGO Step-by-Step.
- Through dedicated support extended by UNICEF to ISMB and the Education Desk at RomExpo, 369 enrolment requests (116 for preschool/kindergarten, and 253 for school) were registered and processed in Bucharest in November. Interest in Romanian language courses has surged, resulting in 542 requests for courses and testing. In response, the ISMB has extended the registration period for these courses and certification tests.
- JRS, in collaboration with UNICEF, conducted educational afterschool activities at five learning centres in Bucharest, Braşov, and Constanţa for 242 children, as well as 200 children at Pipera Hub and the RomExpo. Support for education activities was done by 21 Ukrainian and Romanian teachers and 2 psychologists in Bucharest and Constanţa working closely with school counsellors for individual support and mediation with parents, teachers, and school management.
- Under a European Union Asylum, Migration, and Integration Fund (AMIF) funded project, JRS implemented various activities in Constanţa and Galaţi, including counselling services on access to education covering enrolment, access to social benefits, and language courses. JRS also supported educational activities for 273 children and 269 adults from Ukraine, with four teachers organising daily Romanian language courses in various formats.
- Under the Entreculturas and Caritas projects, online Romanian language classes were organized for 500 children delivered by four Romanian teachers and learning activities for 60 preschoolers were hosted at a JRS venue in Bucharest.
- In Constanţa, JRS continued to organize activities under the Ştiinţescu project providing IT workshops, offering learning support to 93 migrant and Romanian children through 11 workshops and other activities.
- JRS organised Romanian, English, and French language classes, sports activities, medical consultations, music lessons, IT classes, first aid classes, and architecture class for adolescents in close cooperation with the Kharkiv School of Architecture.
- "Ienachita Vacarescu" School in Bucharest celebrated its 160 years anniversary together with more than 100 refugee children from various countries of origin enrolled as pupils or audients representing a third of all students with the support of UNICEF.
- In November, World Vision Romania initiated the distribution of educational kits as part of its back-to-school campaign. The initiative aims to equip children with the necessary resources to enhance their participation in the classroom. The distribution process includes educational kits for both refugee and host community children enrolled in World Vision's projects.
- World Vision conducted educational activities at four socio-educational centres in Bucharest, Cluj, Constanţa, and Suceava for more than 300 children and included homework assistance, remedial classes, Romanian language classes, and non-formal educational activities, including arts and crafts workshops, English language skills development, outdoor activities, sports, and logic games. World Vision's partnership with schools and kindergartens in Constanţa and Suceava is ongoing, providing continued support for the inclusion and active participation of Ukrainian children in formal education, with some 150 children supported by the initiative in November. In line with World Vision's holistic approach to intervention, the NGO integrated MHPSS, integration, and child protection activities into its assistance programme for Ukrainian refugees.
- Terre des Hommes continued its work in Bucharest, Braşov, and Constanţa together with its partner the Civic Resource Centre and in Baia Mare with City Makers. Activities consisted of individual and group MHPSS sessions, intercultural and life-skills development, adapted information, referral, a case management, and individual protection assistance. In Braşov, support focused on different aspects including RIF activities, Psychosocial Support sessions, intercultural and life-skills development, case management and individual

protection assistance. 259 children participated in intercultural learning and life skills activities at the RIFs, centres and schools.

- CNRR continues to offer counselling on access to education through its regional offices in Bucharest, Braşov, Constanţa, Galaţi, Iaşi, and Suceava. This includes assisting refugees with school/kindergarten enrolment procedure, the recognition and equivalence of studies/diplomas, and referral to Romanian language courses and other educational activities.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The national education systems' capacity to integrate all Ukrainian refugee children requires further strengthening. There were delays in the enrolment and distribution of students for the new academic year. There are also inconsistencies in the application process for social scholarships for children with audient status.
- There remains a lack of tailored support services, such as language classes, tutoring, or counselling, to help refugees adjust and succeed in the educational system. The transition from audient to pupil status, recognition of studies, and requirements for the equivalence of studies remain problematic, as does the enrolment and testing of language proficiency.
- In Bucharest, ISMB faces challenges in the process of enrolment and distribution of Ukrainian children in schools. New requests for enrolment received are processed and allocation decisions only processed once a week. In Bucharest, the placement of Ukrainian children is difficult due to a shortage of spaces caused closures for school building repairs. Some 60 per cent of schools in Bucharest are full and the remaining 40 per cent are far from the homes of refugees making attendance difficult.
- There has been increased interest in kindergarten and school registration, especially among newly arrived refugees, mainly due to the accommodation assistance programme which requires the enrolment of children in education. Parents want information on the enrolment procedure, educational benefits, and scholarships.
- Romanian language courses need greater promotion among refugee children to encourage their transition from audient to pupil status.



Health and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- Access to primary care remains a priority for Ukrainian refugees in Romania. To address this need, WHO Romania provides a stipend for administrative support to selected family medicine clinics in Bucharest, Braşov, Cluj, Constanţa, Galaţi, and Suceava to ensure refugees' access to primary healthcare services. In November, WHO-supported family doctors delivered 501 consultations to Ukrainians, including 33 essential and childhood vaccinations.
- WHO Romania established a telephone translation hotline providing Ukrainians in Romania with free over-the-phone interpretation for medical and psychological consultations. Language difficulties represent one of the main challenges to accessing healthcare. In November, the hotline provided 76 translation services to refugees.
- Psychological support is a key health need among Ukrainian refugees in Romania. In November, WHO cultural mediators in Bucharest and Constanţa delivered 71 individual psychosocial consultations, 1 group and 10 art and music therapy sessions, the latter attended by 40 Ukrainians. These activities have been highly effective in addressing stress and anxiety and promoting community cohesion.
- In November, WHO cultural mediators offered personalized advice and guidance to 218 Ukrainians on how to access primary and specialist care. A further 114 refugees were assisted with scheduling medical appointments, and 135 individuals were accompanied to consultations.
- WHO Romania has contracted the hotline of the Independent Associations of Midwives (AMI) to provide guidance on a range of topics including family doctor registration, health access, neonatal and postnatal care and access

to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and family planning services. The hotline also supports WHO Romania with the dissemination of health promotional material through their online communication channels. During November, the hotline supported over 450 refugees.

- On 14 November, the MHPSS Sub-Working Group met to discuss ongoing activities, challenges, and priorities in mental health and psychosocial support. Participants also reviewed progress on the MHPSS Minimum Preparedness Action Plan and shared updates on capacity-building initiatives. The discussions reinforced the importance of collaboration and innovation in addressing emerging needs and enhancing MHPSS efforts at all levels.
- Services provided by Save the Children Romania at Counselling and Integrated Services Centres in Bucharest, Baia Mare, Galați, Iași, Timișoara, Tulcea, and Suceava assisted 825 children and 204 adults. 90 children participated in team activities consisting of sports, games, and movement activities focusing on themes such as managing anger, stress, and promoting positive interactions with peers. These activities not only helped improve children's physical health and fitness but also fostered important social skills such as communication, cooperation, and conflict resolution. In November, 322 children and 47 adults took part in a series of recreational and art and craft workshops, where they had the opportunity to express their creativity and get into the holiday spirit. 79 adults and 67 children benefited from individual and group counselling sessions in various areas, aimed at providing psychological support and promoting emotional well-being. The sessions offered a safe space for participants to express their thoughts and feelings, address personal challenges, and develop coping strategies. Through individual counselling, specific personal issues were explored in a confidential setting, while group sessions encouraged peer support and shared experiences. The initiatives aimed enhance mental health, improve interpersonal relationships, and help individuals better manage stress, trauma, and other life challenges.
- WHO presented its Health Preparedness Plan as part of its efforts to address potential public health emergencies, natural disasters, and refugee influxes. Through a "World Café" discussion format, participants collaborated on defining roles and resources needed to address emergency scenarios, refining coordination strategies across health partners and developing actionable improvements to emergency response protocols.
- WHO Romania, in coordination with UNHCR and the Border Police visited the Isaccea border checkpoint to distribute information materials on how to access national healthcare services in Romania. Furthermore, county coordinators participated in a local stakeholder coordination meeting discussing refugee support activities.
- On 27 November, the Health and MHPSS Working Groups held a joint meeting aimed at fostering collaboration among health partners in Romania by reviewing ongoing health programs, strengthening emergency preparedness, and exploring innovative approaches to integrating MHPSS services into broader health initiatives. Participants conducted an evaluation of existing health programs to assess their alignment with community needs and the 2025/26 RRP. The review was organized into focus groups targeting four key areas: impact on target populations; resource allocation and efficiency; community engagement and participation; scalability and adaptability.



Basic Needs

Achievements and Impact

- On 12 November, UNHCR facilitated a meeting in Suceava together with local authorities on local emergency preparedness focusing on access to basic needs, including accommodation. The event was attended by 15 participants, with presentations from the local Department for Emergency Situations (DSU), the Border Police, and with the participation of the members of the Refugee Inclusion Working Group, a local coordination network. Participants discussed the immediate response capacity in Suceava in the context of winter.
- In Bucharest, NGO 4Change provided counselling support to refugees previously accommodated at the UTCB collective centre to help address their accommodation needs, working closely with local authorities and UNHCR,

as some refugees continue to have difficulty finding longer-term accommodation. Similarly at the Edmond collective centre, the organization counselled refugees staying at the centre on the Government Decision focusing on clarifying their rights and obligations, and identification of the necessary documentation to access support. Through these counselling sessions, 4Change aims to further facilitate refugees' inclusion and ensure equitable access to resources available under the legal framework.

- During November, AidRom in partnership with Timișoara Food Bank held five distributions of food packages, with 171 refugees (52 families) from Ukraine receiving assistance. AidRom also organized the distribution of social vouchers in Arad, Bihor and Timiș counties, with 18 distributions reaching 165 persons in three counties. AidRom's social vouchers can be used for purchasing food, non-food items and medicines.
- Over the course of the month, UNHCR and partners distributed over 4,600 core relief items (CRIs), including family hygiene kits, mattresses, and clothing, to over 4,000 refugees living in Bucharest, Bacău, Botoșani, Buzău, Constanța, Galați, Maramureș, Mureș, Sibiu, Suceava, and Timiș. So far in 2024, UNHCR distributed 84,193 CRIs to 44,957 refugees in Romania.
- In November, UNHCR assisted vulnerable refugees through its two ongoing cash programmes. Some 1,000 eligible refugees received their third payment through the cash for refugees with specific needs programme, with nearly 1,800 receiving their fourth instalment and almost 3,800 receiving the fifth instalment. By the end of the year, nearly 5,700 refugees will have received four monthly instalments including a one month top up payment for the most vulnerable households. The cash for winter programme supported more than 5,000 refugees from Ukraine, of which 427 had newly arrived in Romania. The programme seeks to minimize the risks that vulnerable households may face in covering their most pressing basic needs in the context of increased seasonal costs.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Partners continued to monitor of the application of the Government Decision adopted under Government Emergency Ordinance no. 96/2024 to identify any potential emerging needs, specifically for vulnerable refugees who are not self-reliant. Gaps and challenges related to the limited availability of sustainable long-term accommodation have been noted. The future availability of collective centre accommodation beyond 31 March 2025 remains uncertain. Partners will continue advocating for longer-term solutions for the most vulnerable and work closely with the local and national authorities to identify sustainable solutions.



Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion

Achievements and Impact

- On 19 November, Romanian Diversity Chamber of Commerce (RDCC) and UNHCR signed a memorandum of understanding for further collaboration in the field of diversity, equality, and inclusion (DEI). As part of the agreement, RDCC will provide training and capacity-building on DEI topics to members of Inter-Agency working groups, while also promoting the economic inclusion of refugees within Romania's business community. RDCC already held events such as Purple Night in 2023 and 2024, an awareness campaign for people with disabilities, and "Breakfast Talk: Accelerating Business Growth with Refugee Talent", and conferences on "DEI in Eastern Europe", "LGBT+ at Work", and the "AccessAbility" conference and job fair for persons with disabilities.
- On 21 November, the Suceava Chamber of Commerce and Industry and UNHCR held a workshop on livelihoods and economic inclusion of forcibly displaced people where authorities from AJOFM, IGI, and Labour Inspectorate were present, together with representatives of civil society, and some 30 refugees. The Chamber of Commerce presented details of business registration, followed by an interactive Q&A session. World Vision shared their socio-economic inclusion projects, with testimonies from two refugee participants, Ekaterina and Svetlana, who were part of their entrepreneurship programme, while Project Voyager presented the jobs4ukraine platform and

an information sharing tool they have developed together with DSU – the [Information service for Ukrainian refugees who want to integrate in Romania](#).

- In November, World Vision selected 27 grant winners for USD 6,200 entrepreneurship support that are to open or expand businesses in Iași, Suceava, Brașov, Constanța, Bucharest and Cluj. In Bucharest and Ilfov, 9 projects were selected, in the fields of health and wellness, education, cleaning services, event organisation and construction. These businesses will be supported with being set up and continue to be monitored next year by World Vision.
- Language limitations and counselling remain the main challenges to refugees' access to employment opportunities. As part of efforts to facilitate refugees' access to and integration in the labour market, UNHCR through International House, an external service provider, offers online and offline language classes to refugees. Between 10 April – 13 November, 2,226 adult refugee job seekers registered for Romanian language classes with International House through partner organisations in Bucharest (774), Constanța (435), Brașov (275), Cluj (117), Suceava (78), Iași (75), Timișoara (65), Oradea (38) Brăila (22), Galați (16). At present, there are 990 ongoing courses, with 635 people in module 1, 342 in module 2, and 1,249 in modules 3 and 4.

Cross-Cutting Priorities



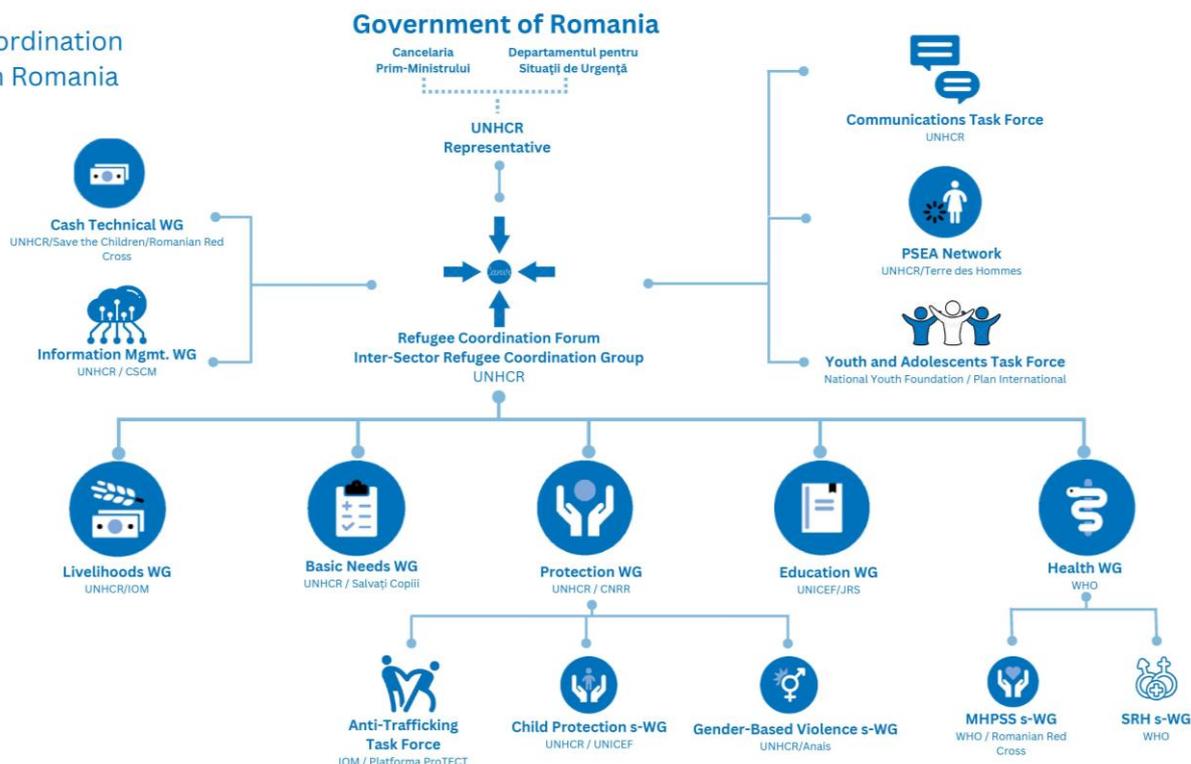
Trafficking in Persons

Achievements and Impact

- On 5 November, the IOM Romania Counter Trafficking focal point together with Dr. Oana Vasile, a Counsellor at the Chancellery of the Prime Minister of Romania, participated at a roundtable event in Warsaw, gathering counter trafficking experts and focal points from countries neighbouring Ukraine from European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex), government representatives from Bulgaria, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Ukraine, as well as La Strada International, OSCE, independent researchers, and protection division representatives from IOM headquarters and the regional office in Vienna. Participants presented on their respective country responses to the Ukraine refugee situation, including lessons learned and best practices, with focus on reducing the risks of exploitation of the vulnerable Ukrainian citizens seeking protection.
- On 12 and 13 November, the EUAA, IGI's Directorate for Migration, and UNHCR co-facilitated a training session on "Trafficking of human beings". The two-day session gathered 20 participants from the Border Police and IGI, aiming to deepen their knowledge and enhance their practical skills in identifying and responding to cases of human trafficking. The training emphasized a trauma-informed approach in interactions with potential victims of trafficking, focusing on sensitive and supportive communication techniques essential in these encounters. The agenda covered a comprehensive set of topics, including international and European legal frameworks, signs of trafficking, types of trafficking, and an analysis of case studies. Key sessions also highlighted the importance of recognizing indicators of trafficking, differentiating between trafficking and smuggling, and understanding the non-punishment principle for victims.
- On 19 November, IOM Romania presented at the event organized by NGO SafePol in partnership with the National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons (ANITP) and the PROTECT platform. The event brought together more than 50 participants from the Romanian police. Among topics related to counter trafficking, the participants learned about their duty to report potential victims and their role in the reporting mechanism.
- On 21 November, IGI together with IOM under the overall supervision of the State Counsellor Valentin Vatajelu held the first meeting of a working group on foreign citizens as part of the implementation of the new strategy for combating trafficking in persons, with participation of different actors in the field. The agenda focused on reducing the risk of exploitation of foreign citizens working in Romania.
- Throughout November, NGO ADPARE provided specialized counselling and assistance to vulnerable Ukrainians both at a counselling centre and accommodation centres in Bucharest.

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

CONTACTS

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

kinderen@unhcr.org

James Weatherlake, Senior Reporting Associate (Inter-Agency), Romania

weatherl@unhcr.org

LINKS

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