



# Romania

December 2024

Since the start of the international armed conflict in Ukraine which has forced more than 6.25 million people to flee their homes to seek safety, protection, and assistance across Europe, of which more than 177,000 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, which in 2024, comprised of 37 appealing partners implementing humanitarian activities for the refugees from Ukraine.

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## KEY FIGURES\*

**6.25 M**

individual refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe (as of 16 December).

**177,632**

obtained temporary protection in Romania (as of 30 November)

**66**

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

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

**USD 117 M**

Romania financial requirements (2024)

**USD 44,4 M**

Funding received against the Appeal (Q3 2024)

**37**

Appealing Partners in the Romania response (2024)

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\*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 6.25 million people from Ukraine have sought refuge across Europe. As of 30 November 2024, the Romanian General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI) reported that 177,632 Ukrainians and third country nationals obtained temporary protection in Romania, which provides access to healthcare, education, and the labour market.

In December, after various consultation rounds within the sectoral working groups and national different authorities the narrative of the Romania Chapter of the Regional Refugee Response Plan 2025 was finalised and sent for integration into the regional RRP document as one of 10 country chapters covering the regional response. The Regional RRP will be launched on 16 January, with the national launch in Romania taking place on 21 February.

The Inter-Agency Coordination Unit together with Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca is currently working on a study on how the refugee response in Romania can foster sustainable institutional frameworks and strengthen public institutions to the benefit of the host community while delivering support to refugees. Data collection began in 2024, gathering inputs on the efforts deployed by RRP appealing partners since 2022, with a focus on capturing the activities and the support extended by the appealing partners to public institutions in 2024. The study aims to support ongoing efforts in the context of the RRP in advancing the localization of the response and the strengthening of public institutions in Romania. The study is expected to be finalised by the end of Q1 2025.

### Spotlight on... RRP partner Drumul Vieții (The Life Road) – providing comprehensive support services, humanitarian aid, and community integration for Ukrainian refugees in Romania.

*Kristina, a 10-year-old girl from Cherkasy, Ukraine, fled her homeland with her family as part of a convoy of 80 people in March 2022. Their harrowing journey through mountain passes and countless military checkpoints brought them to Romania, where they encountered a compassionate community of fellow refugees who would later form Drumul Vieții. "The first days were the scariest," Kristina recalls. "But when we arrived in Oradea, we found more than just shelter – we found a new community."*



*Through the support of people who understood their journey first-hand – refugees who would go on to establish Drumul Vieții – Kristina and other refugee children found stability in their new environment, participating in weekly masterclasses and workshops that helped them adjust to life in Romania.*

*Drumul Vieții, born from this refugee-led initiative, has been instrumental in supporting over 5,000 refugees across Romania, Ukraine, and other countries since the war began. Their comprehensive approach includes immediate humanitarian aid, evacuation services, and crucial integration support such as assistance with housing, employment, and documentation.*

*In Oradea, the organization runs a Ukrainian kindergarten and provides essential social assistance to youth and children. Their recent third annual Christmas Event in January 2024 brought together 250 Ukrainian refugees, featuring Christmas drama, communal singing, games, and gift-giving – creating moments of joy and connection for displaced families.*

*Drumul Vieții 's goal is to encourage community-led support, with refugees helping refugees navigate the challenges of displacement while building new lives in Romania. Through their continuous efforts, they're not just providing essential services – they're creating a home away from home for displaced Ukrainians.*



## Protection

### Achievements and Impact

- In December, protection partners focused their efforts on ensuring that refugees from Ukraine can access the lump sum assistance program for new arrivals, the social protection system, and on protecting persons with specific needs.
- In December, the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR) conducted several advocacy interventions, the first of which was related to the draft Government Decision regarding the approval of the "Social program of national interest to support couples and single people, to increase the birth rate", which provides financial vouchers to mothers with Romanian citizenship or who are in a partnership with a Romanian citizen. CNRR advocated for the inclusion of mothers who are beneficiaries of international protection in the program. CNRR also submitted recommendations on the draft Government Decision approving the social program of national interest "One child, one smile", which provides financial vouchers for dental services to children who are Romanian citizens or have at least one Romanian parent, advocating for the inclusion of children who are beneficiaries of international protection in this program. CNRR also submitted recommendations to the Ministry of Family for a legislative amendment changing the term "representative" in Emergency Ordinance No. 96/2024.
- A joint letter from the Metropolitan Agency for Durable Development Braşov (AMDDDB), the General Directorate of Social Assistance of Bucharest Municipality (DGASMB), and the Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations for Social Services (FONSS) was sent to the Special Telecommunications Service (STS) highlighting issues with the digital platform that prevent reimbursement of the lump sum payments for the entities hosting former beneficiaries who continued to reside in collective centres following the adoption of Emergency Ordinance No. 96/2024.
- Between 3 and 12 December, a series of six information sessions attended by 60 Ukrainian refugees regarding the provisions of 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" were held in Bucharest jointly with DGASMB, General Directorates of Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC), UNHCR, and WHO. The sessions, also received the support of representatives of other national authorities, including the National Authority for Child Protection and Adoptions (ANPDCA), the National Authority for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities' Rights (ANPDPD), the Ministry of Labor and Social Solidarity (MoLSS), and the Agency for Payments and Social Inspection (ANPIS). The sessions provided information on access to social benefits and services, including eligibility criteria and the application process, and access to health care.
- Terre des Hommes continued to assist refugees in Bucharest and Braşov, as well as in Constanţa together with its partner the Civic Resource Centre, and in Baia Mare with City Makers. Terre des Hommes' activities consisted of individual and group mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) sessions, intercultural classes, and life-skills development, adapted information, case management, and individual protection assistance. 309 adults received individual mental health consultations or group support activities and participated in MHPSS community events alongside their children, 56 adults were supported with tailored information, of which 19 were referred to health services, social welfare, legal services, or were supported through case management.
- On 16 December, the National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons (ANITP), UNHCR, and WHO held an information sharing event on counter-trafficking measures and services available to refugees at the UNHCR service hub in Galaţi attended by 20 Ukrainian refugees. WHO presented details about free translation services for Ukrainian refugees who register online, enhancing access to healthcare and other essential services.
- To foster communication between host and refugee communities, CNRR and Inimă de Copil hosted a festive event at the UNHCR service hub in Galaţi bringing together approximately 25 Ukrainian refugee children and 10 Romanian children from vulnerable families. The children enjoyed activities such as art masterclasses and face

painting and exchanged cultural traditions by singing carols in both Ukrainian and Romanian. The event concluded with each child receiving a gift, giving a sense of togetherness and joy.

- CNRR provided 278 counselling sessions through its call centre, 716 counselling sessions at its offices and assistance points, and 990 counselling and information sessions at border crossing points on access to territory and protection.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Six information sessions UNHCR organized in December for refugees from Ukraine with participation from local authorities in each sector of Bucharest and relevant central authorities revealed ongoing challenges related to the interpretation of the rules applicable to accessing social assistance benefits. There is lack of consistency and clarity among different local authorities regarding eligibility criteria and documents to be presented to access different social assistance benefits, mainly the child state allowance and minimum inclusion income (VMI). UNHCR is advocating for guidance to be issued by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Youth and Social Solidarity on the application of Emergency Ordinance No. 96/2024 that can help to harmonize the way the Emergency Ordinance is being implemented.
- Challenges were reported for refugees to access lump sum payments to cover their accommodation expenses since the state withdrew support provided through its previous programmes and has not yet made payments under the new programme. RRP partners are advocating for a resolution to this situation. Furthermore, there were also issues regarding the platform designed for the registration of temporary protection holders who are previous beneficiaries and residing in collective centres. As such, they are unable to register for the lump sum reimbursement for collective centres. Following letters sent to the Special Telecommunication Service (STS) by several RRP partners, UNHCR and some local authorities, the technical problem was reported to have been solved on 14 January.



## Child Protection

### Achievements and Impact

- During December, Terre des Hommes provided individual and group MHPSS sessions, inter-cultural and life skills activities, adapted information, referral, individual protection assistance (IPA) and case management. Through Terre des Hommes in Bucharest and Braşov, and in Baia Mare together with City Makers, and Constanţa together with the Civic Resource Centre, 562 children attended individual or group MHPSS sessions, as well as intercultural learning and life skills lessons. The Resilience Innovation Facilities (RIFs) in Bucharest, Braşov, and Constanţa provided safe and dynamic hubs of creativity, with 342 children participating in Terre des Hommes' MHPSS activities at RIFs, and 307 of the children also taking part in digital skills and other creative exercises. 16 children were supported with tailored information and were referred to health, social welfare and legal services, or are supported through Terre des Hommes' case management. 12 children were helped with tailored information on children's rights and how to access in Romania.
- Terre des Hommes and UNHCR held an event titled "Inclusive School - Refugee Students in Bucharest Schools" in Bucharest. The workshop brought together 55 participants, key stakeholders, including school counsellors, representatives from local child protection authorities and civil society organizations, as well as youth to address the integration of refugee students in Bucharest schools. Speakers from the Bucharest Municipal Centre for Educational Resources and Assistance (CMBRAE), Terre des Hommes, and UNHCR discussed challenges such as bullying and strategies for fostering inclusive school environments, with testimonies from refugee youth adding a personal perspective. Group discussions focused on identifying obstacles and proposing actionable solutions to improve the integration of refugee students. The event concluded with a comprehensive exchange of ideas, fostering a collaborative approach to creating more inclusive educational environments in Bucharest.

## Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Youth participants at a workshop hosted by Terre des Hommes mentioned the need for free Romanian language courses in schools, establishing peer mentoring programs and teacher training, support initiatives for parents, provision of educational resources and implementation of anti-bullying measures to create a safe and inclusive environment. This was mentioned in the workshop: "organization of free Romanian language courses, on different levels of preparation, in the school where the pupil is studying"



## Gender-Based Violence

### Achievements and Impact

- On 10 December, under the umbrella of the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) sub-Working Group, UNHCR and the National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men (ANES), in partnership with EEIHR and UNFPA, hosted a consultation workshop in Bucharest to refine the GBV Case Management Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), which are currently under development. The event brought together case managers from public and private service providers (both DGASPCs and civil society organisations) to discuss the complexities of GBV case management within Romania's legal and social service frameworks. Key discussions highlighted the interplay between various legislative provisions and the challenges in designating case managers based on victims' points of service entry. Participants emphasized the need for practical, nationally applicable, step-by-step guidance rather than overly theoretical SOPs, focusing on key GBV approaches and principles, a comprehensive case management roadmap, and considerations for vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities, children, male survivors, displaced persons, ethnic minorities, and LGBTIQ+ individuals. This initiative aligns with efforts to strengthen GBV response capacities and complements the existing Ministerial Order on Minimum Standards for Case Management for Victims of Domestic Violence.
- In December, the "GBV Safety Audit", a report on the safety of refugees from Ukraine from the point of view of gender-based violence developed by NGO ANAIS with technical and financial support from UNICEF Romania, was launched. Key points within the report include:
  - Considering the protracted crisis and the ongoing instability in Ukraine, it is essential to strengthen and support Romania's national and local systems to ensure they have the capacity to assist refugees already in the country and those who may arrive in the future.
  - For the refugees currently in Romania, comprehensive and enhanced access to services is critical to support their social integration and cohesion with local communities.
  - All stakeholders should prioritize the mainstreaming of GBV, SEA, and gender equality across all programs and services to mitigate risks and provide comprehensive support.
  - Countering discriminatory attitudes and hate speech is crucial to reducing risks and fostering a more inclusive and supportive environment—not only for refugees but also for vulnerable Romanian populations.
  - The challenges related to GBV and PSEA also affect Romanian women and girls, underscoring the need for consistent efforts to improve the quality and accessibility of support for all women and girls.
- Throughout the second week of the 16 Days of Activism campaign, UNHCR and its partners led discussions and held activities highlighting the importance of addressing gender-based violence. On 3 December, the refugee-led organization EDNAE hosted an exhibition in Suceava, showcasing handcrafted items created by refugee women, reflecting their resilience, empowerment, and hope. The event, attended by 30 refugees, aimed to present these pieces to the Made51 [online shop](#) marketing handicrafts made by refugees, for potential collaboration and offering refugees livelihood opportunities.
- During the reporting period, Sensiblu Foundation supported refugees from Ukraine through 24 group sessions attended by 644 people in Bucharest, Constanța, Râmnicu Vâlcea, and Suceava. The sessions focused on



delivering psychosocial support and specialized information, significantly enhancing participants' emotional well-being and capacity to prevent risk situations.

- In December, UNHCR and its partners continued organizing Empowerment Self-Defence (ESD) sessions, which were highly valued by the community. On 6 December, as part of the 16 Days of Activism against Violence against Women, an ESD workshop was held with the participation of 11 girls. The event was co-hosted with NGO Art Fusion, the Society for Feminist Analyses, and ANAIS, aiming to foster learning, empowerment, and connection through mental, verbal, and physical self-defence techniques. On 18 December, a 4-hour ESD session took place at the Kids' Corner during the International Women's Association of Bucharest Christmas Bazaar at the National Library. The 2024 theme, "Empowering Vision, Enriching Lives," focused on supporting individuals with visual impairments, while more than 20 children and teenagers from diplomatic missions learnt about self-defence against bullying in Romania's education system.
- NGO Necuvinte held a series of workshops aimed at preventing and combating GBV, focusing on two key topics. The first workshop addressed human trafficking, highlighting the risks Ukrainian refugees face, particularly when crossing borders or seeking employment. Participants learned about various types of trafficking, associated risks, and protection measures, and engaged in practical exercises to identify unsafe job offers. The second workshop explored hate speech, examining its connection to violence, the boundaries of free speech, and its impact on the refugee community. It covered hate speech specifically targeting Ukrainians and more general instances, equipping Ukrainian participants with resources to respond as victims or witnesses. These interactive workshops provided a safe space for open dialogue, experience sharing, and awareness-raising, with the participation of 47 refugees residing at the Edmond Nicolau collective centre.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Refugee women from Ukraine expressed a strong interest in practical, hands-on training in de-escalation and self-defence techniques. Incorporating case studies and role-playing exercises into these trainings would provide participants with the tools and confidence to respond effectively to GBV scenarios in a controlled and supportive setting. There is a pressing need for Empowerment through Self-Defence workshops in schools, including those attended by Ukrainian refugee children, while involving Romanian participants as much as possible to foster solidarity.
- Extending GBV workshops to include Ukrainian male refugees, particularly teenage boys aged 16-17, is vital as their numbers at the border increase. Engaging men and boys in these discussions can foster a more inclusive understanding of GBV and encourage active, supportive roles in combating violence.
- Women from Ukraine fleeing domestic violence continue to be extremely vulnerable, as they face the risk of returning to both war and abusive partners in the absence of safe housing options. For those in Bucharest with their partners, housing insecurity increases their vulnerability to abuse, trafficking, or exploitation.



## Education

### Achievements and Impact

- In December, RRP partner's efforts focused on local and national coordination, on facilitating increased access to Romanian language courses, extracurricular activities, MHPSS and social cohesion activities. RRP partners also provided technical support and advocacy to national authorities, aiding the integration of refugee children into Romanian schools.
- 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. In December, through partnership agreements with the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)

Romania, PATRIR, Step-by-Step, and HOLTIS, UNICEF supported the provision of complementary education services and parental support in cities with large refugee communities, such as Bucharest, Braşov, Cluj-Napoca, Constanţa, and Vâlcea county. This included support for the operation of 16 play and learning hubs and parenting hubs for early education children, in collaboration with the NGO Step-by-Step.

- UNICEF also continued to support school enrolment in Bucharest. Through dedicated support extended by UNICEF to the School Inspectorate of the Municipality of Bucharest (ISMB) and the Education Desk at Romexpo, Ukrainian children and their families received assistance with the school enrolment process in Bucharest, including support for enrolling in Romanian language courses and obtaining certification.
- JRS in collaboration with UNICEF, delivered after-school educational activities to 238 children at five learning centres located in Bucharest, Braşov, and Constanţa, as well as 200 children at Pipera Hub and the playground at Romexpo. Support for education activities was provided 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.
- JRS implemented various activities in Constanţa and Galaţi through a project funded by the European Union's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), including counselling services on the access to education (enrolment, access to social benefits, and language courses), and educational activities for 304 children and 290 adults from Ukraine.
- Under Entreculturas and Caritas projects, online Romanian classes were delivered to 500 children, with the support of four Romanian teachers. Learning activities for 60 preschool children were held by JRS in Bucharest under the "One Proposal" project.
- In Constanţa, JRS held activities under the Ştiinţescu project offering IT workshops with learning support to 93 migrant and Romanian children during workshops and other activities.
- World Vision Romania provided educational support to more than 350 children, including assistance with homework, Romanian language classes, and non-formal educational activities. The centres conducted workshops focusing on the winter holidays. Festivities dedicated to the holidays were held together with children from host communities in Bucharest, Constanţa, Iaşi, and Suceava to foster integration. In addition to the activities delivered in our centres, World Vision Romania provided support to three schools in Constanţa and a kindergarten in Suceava, reaching some 150 children through its partnership with local schools.
- World Vision Romania finalized the distribution of 2,270 back-to-school kits for both refugee and host community children, as well as almost 150 kits for teachers working with refugee children to further support their integration activities.
- This month, under Terre des Homme's Educational Programming Activities, 128 children benefited from intercultural learning and life skills activities at RIFs, collective centres, and schools.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There remain challenges related to the efforts to fully integrate refugee children in the Romanian education system, including the transition from audient to pupil status, insufficient preparedness of teachers to accommodate refugees, and language barriers.
- Challenges with the recognition of previous studies and meeting the requirements for equivalence. Also, there are difficulties in the enrolment process and in testing the language proficiency of refugee children.
- There is still a lack of tailored support services for Ukrainian children, such as language classes, tutoring, or counselling, to help refugees integrate and succeed in the national educational system.
- There is still need for appropriate training programs to equip teachers with the skills and knowledge required to address the specific needs of refugee children.
- There are limited resources to support refugee children with effective psychosocial support and the necessary mental health and psychosocial support services to address their emotional and psychological needs.



## 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 medical surgeries in Bucharest, Braşov, Cluj-Napoca, Constanţa, Galaţi, Sibiu, and Suceava, to ensure refugee access to primary healthcare services. In December, family doctors at the supported surgeries provided 423 consultations and 25 essential vaccinations for Ukrainian patients.
- On 5 December, the County Health Insurance Agency (CJAS) and the Public Health Directorate (DSP) of Galaţi county, and UNHCR held an awareness session on healthcare rights and access to medical services attended by 15 refugees. The session covered topics such as vaccination processes, medical referrals, accessing family doctors, and navigating the health insurance system, with a Q&A session addressing common challenges. The event provided practical solutions and resources, with contributions from CJAS, CNRR, DSP, and WHO ensuring refugees are better equipped to access healthcare services.
- WHO Romania established a telephone translation hotline providing free over the phone interpretation for medical and psychological consultations of Ukrainian patients with refugee status in Romania. The hotline provided 58 simultaneous interpretations for medical consults, including 5 emergency consultations in December.
- WHO Romania contracted the Independent Midwives Association (AMI) hotline which provides guidance on a range of topics including how to register with a family doctor, access primary and specialist health services, and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and family planning services. Throughout December, the hotline provided support for 301 Ukrainian refugees. AMI also supports WHO Romania with the dissemination of health promotion material, circulating 13 posts via their online communication channels in December.
- Psychosocial support is another crucial health need for Ukrainian refugees in Romania. In December, the WHO cultural mediator in Constanţa delivered 27 psychosocial support sessions, 2 group, and 1 art therapy sessions, attended by 16 Ukrainians. These activities have been highly effective in addressing stress and anxiety and promoting community cohesion among refugees.
- Significant information gaps persist for Ukrainians seeking healthcare services which impacts their ability to navigate the Romanian health system and access primary and specialist care. In December WHO cultural mediators offered personalized advice and guidance on how to access primary and specialist care to 117 Ukrainians and assisted a further 43 beneficiaries with scheduling appointments.
- The WHO Romania cultural mediator participated in six joint sessions with UNHCR aimed at informing Ukrainian people residing in Bucharest on how to access the Romanian national health system and answer health questions from refugees.
- On 9 December, WHO Romania County Coordinators joined a mission to Isaccea border crossing point in Tulcea county, on the border with Ukraine to donate first-aid kits and health information materials for Ukrainians, including posters detailing healthcare access in Romania.
- On 12 December, WHO supported family doctors in Braşov conducted a training session for other family doctors on how to register and provide medical services to Ukrainian refugees. The training included step-by-step guidance on how to register new Ukrainian patients in the National Health Insurance information platform (SIUI), how to collaborate with the National Health Insurance Agency to generate the unique identification number for refugees, identification of services available to Ukrainian patients including exemptions from co-payments and insurance contributions, a practical demonstration of paperwork requirements, and the role of family doctors in providing services for refugees.
- The SRH sub-working group, including the participation of AMI, E-Romnja, Sex vs Stork, Society for Education in Contraception and Sexuality (SECS), Filia Centre, and the Partnership for Equality Centre (CPE), provided trainings for health professionals on reproductive health, reproductive rights, perinatal health, gender equality, intersectionality, and anti-discrimination policies for Romanian and refugee population. Supported by the French



Embassy, the trainings also included the exchange of good practice examples between midwives from Romania and France and the presentation of a study on the needs and benefits of the midwifery profession.

- During December, the MHPSS sub-working group, through Terre des Hommes, provided individual and group MHPSS sessions or activities focused on PSS development to 650 children in Bucharest, Baia Mare, Braşov, and Constanţa. Over the same period, 342 children attended Terre des Hommes' Resilience Innovation Facilities (RIFs) and 12 children were assisted with information about their rights. 309 adults benefitted from individual mental health consultations or group support activities of which 9 adults were supported with tailored information.



## Basic Needs

### Achievements and Impact

- On 20 December, UNHCR together with DGASMB, marked the closure of the Municipality's donation centre in at Romexpo with partners and community members. In the nearly three years since its opening, the centre provided critical assistance, including food packages, NFIs, vouchers, and social assistance, to almost 500,000 refugees since the start of full-scale invasion of Ukraine. DGASMB's donation centre will be integrated into UNHCR's community centre at Romexpo in January.
- In Bucharest, DGASMB, UNHCR and NGO 4Change worked together to identify sustainable accommodation solutions for families staying in the Edmond Centre where around half of the 58 accommodated refugee families from Ukraine are no longer eligible for accommodation assistance according to the Government Decision adopted under Emergency Ordinance no. 96/2024. 4Change counselled the families with a focus on clarifying their rights and obligations in relation to the applicable legislation for the families to make informed decisions on alternative accommodation options. Eligible families will be provided with one-month's rental support from 4Change, while single adults were relocated to DGASMB's centre in Pallady.
- In December, Save the Children Romania supported refugees from Ukraine in ten locations across the country including Bucharest, Baia Mare, Galaţi, Iaşi, Suceava, Sighetu Marmatei, Timiş, and Tulcea, providing:
  - o Non-food items (NFI) to 1,060 individuals.
  - o Tailored assistance to 102 people, based on case management and specific needs referrals.
  - o Financial support to 1,372 people through social vouchers with a value of RON 300 (US\$ 62) per person to help meet basic needs.
- In December, UNHCR and partners distributed nearly 15,758 CRIs, including mattresses, body towels, blankets, pillows, hygiene kits and adult clothing to more than 5,294 refugees living in Bucharest, Bihor, Constanţa, Galaţi, Iaşi, Maramureş, Mures, Sibiu, Suceava, Timiş and Vâlcea counties. In 2024, UNHCR has distributed more than 95,000 CRIs to around 49,000 refugees in Romania.
- In December, AidRom maintained its collaboration with Timişoara Food Bank. During December, four food distribution sessions were held at the AidRom Multifunctional Centre in Timişoara, and two food distribution sessions in Arad. 59 Ukrainian refugee families (180 persons) received food packages in Timiş county, and 24 Ukrainian refugee families (94 persons) received food packages in Arad County. AidRom's team also volunteered at the annual Christmas Food collection organized by Food Bank Romania at a supermarket from Timişoara, collecting around 1,000 kg of food which was distributed to Ukrainian refugees in need from Timis and Arad County. In addition, AidRom provided social vouchers to 113 refugees in Arad, Bihor, and Timiş counties to help meet their basic needs. AidRom also distributed UNHCR-provided NFIs to 684 refugees with specific needs in Bihor and Timiş counties.
- UNHCR has concluded payments for its cash for refugees with specific needs programme which started on 1 April 2024. In December, almost 1,000 eligible forcibly displaced people received their fourth payment, while over 1,800 vulnerable refugees received a fifth payment targeting the most vulnerable eligible households. Through

its cash for winterization programme, UNHCR provided payments for almost 2,000 eligible refugees. During 2024, UNHCR provided cash for winterization support for more than 9,500 refugees fleeing Ukraine.

- Through its partner FONSS, UNHCR covered the rent of 16 vulnerable Ukrainian refugee families assisting a total of 44 persons.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Basic Needs partners maintain their monitoring of the application of the Government Decision (GD) and have noted concerns related to the availability of private accommodation and the challenges faced by refugees from Ukraine, who are no longer eligible under the GD, to rent private accommodation. Partners observed that it is particularly difficult to find available apartments in the winter months and found that some landlords are unwilling to rent their apartments or request higher rental fees from refugees from Ukraine. Large families can be especially challenging to accommodate considering the average apartment size. Partners continue to work with rental agencies and landlords to secure apartments while also advocating for longer-term and sustainable solutions for the most vulnerable with the local and national authorities.



## Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion

### Achievements and Impact

- On 16 December, World Vision Romania held a workshop on “Protection and socio-economic inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers in Romania” under the auspices of the Livelihood and Economic Inclusion Working Group, co-hosted with UNHCR in hybrid format from Bucharest. The event was attended by 50 participants, both from public institutions including the National Employment Agency (ANOFM), DGASMB, IGI, and the Constanța Chamber of Commerce, and NGOs including AMDDDB, CNRR, and Project Voyager/Jobs4 Ukraine, as well as six refugees awarded an entrepreneurship grant as part of the World Vision entrepreneurship project funded by UNHCR in 2024. The conference comprised of two panels: one on opportunities and challenges on hiring refugees and asylum-seekers in Romania, and another on entrepreneurship with success stories from businesses run by refugees, with insight from all six locations covered by project: Bucharest, Brașov, Cluj, Constanța, Iași, Suceava.
- One of the main achievements of the Livelihood and Economic Inclusion Working Group in 2024 was the development of a guide together with ANOFM on accessing the services of the agency, published [online](#) in five languages – Arabic, English, Romanian, Russian, and Ukrainian. UNHCR provided ANOFM with physical copies of the guide for distribution at the 40 county offices of the agency, and its six district offices in Bucharest to support refugee jobseekers’ access to information.
- On 12 December, Metropolitan Agency for Durable Development Brașov hosted an event focused on facilitating the professional integration for refugees and asylum seekers in Brașov. With 280 anonymized CVs of beneficiaries distributed to employers, the event provided a practical bridge between job seekers and opportunities. Thirty-seven companies were represented by 47 HR professionals, alongside representatives from key authorities such as the County Employment Agency (AJOFM), the General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI), and the Territorial Labor Inspectorate (ITM), demonstrating robust support from both private and public sectors. The agenda included presentations from local authorities, sharing insights on employment regulations and integration pathways, and a compelling good practice example from Premier Restaurants, a McDonald’s franchise holder, highlighting their successful inclusion of six Ukrainian employees, including one with disabilities. The event concluded with a dynamic networking session, fostering valuable connections among employers, HR specialists, and stakeholders. The initiative reinforced the community’s commitment to sustainable integration solutions and underscored the positive impact of collaboration between businesses and local institutions.

- On 12 December, NGO Novapolis held an advocacy seminar in Constanța on “The role of the public authorities and the multi-actor cooperation in supporting Ukrainian refugees in Romania” bringing together authorities including the County School Inspectorate (ISJ), AJOFM, and ITM, as well as NGOs to discuss challenges and possible advocacy points. UNHCR held an online presentation on the main priorities for the sector, such as strengthening collaboration with national and local state authorities, further private sector engagement, increased self-reliance for refugees, with possible advocacy points related to language acquisition for refugees, and access to European funding for Ukrainians.

## Cross-Cutting Priorities



### Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

#### Achievements and Impact

- On 12 December, Terre des Hommes held a workshop in Brașov on Leadership to Strengthen Safeguarding Practices bringing together 20 senior managers representing small and under-resourced NGOs. The workshop aimed to enhance awareness of safeguarding culture, develop practical skills for managing safeguarding concerns, and guide participants in establishing robust safeguarding systems.
- To facilitate reporting of SEA incidents, the PSEA network has been mapping the network member’s PSEA reporting mechanisms and procedures – and the results have been [published](#) on the RRP Operational Data Portal. The mapping will continue in 2025.



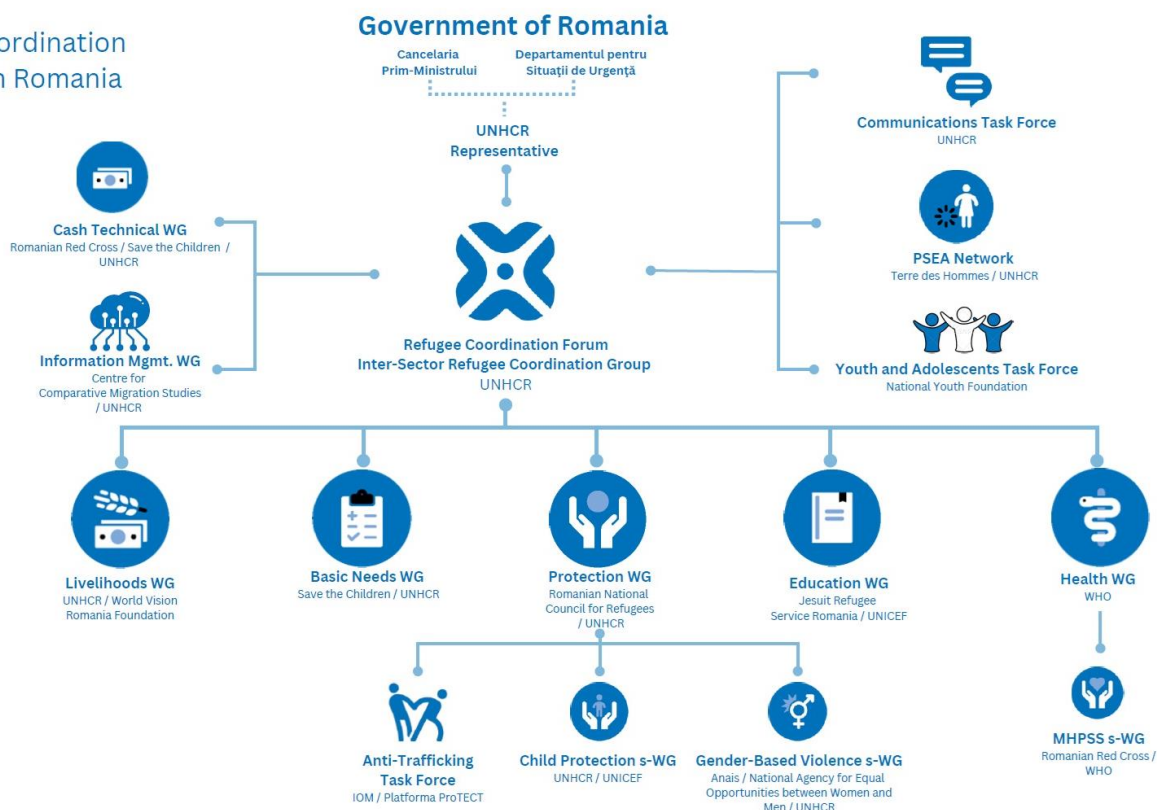
### Trafficking in Persons

#### Achievements and Impact

- The Romanian Government continued to host different working groups as part of the implementation of the national strategy against trafficking in human beings. The conclusions and follow-up points of these meetings will be shared at the beginning of 2025, continuing with the organization of follow up meeting throughout the strategy implementation period (2024-2028).
- On 12 December, IOM Romania participated and contributed at the Shared Responsibility and Accountability in Reducing Trafficking in Persons conference organized by the National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons (ANITP). Participants learned about current efforts to reduce risks associated to trafficking in persons from origin to destination country, latest developments and trends in trafficking in persons in Romania, identified vulnerabilities of foreign citizens in Romania, prevention actions and measures to reduce vulnerability of foreign citizens coming to Romania, and latest developments on combating and investigating trafficking in persons related to foreigners from the victim and perpetrator perspectives.
- NGO ADPARE provided specialized counselling and assistance to vulnerable Ukrainian citizens both at their counselling centre and at accommodation facilities in Bucharest.

## Working in partnership

### Refugee Coordination Structure in Romania



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

ActionAid International | Action Contre la Faim | Asociația Moșelor 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](#)