



Romania

May 2022

Since 24 February, at least 4.7 million refugees from Ukraine have been recorded across Europe, constituting the largest refugee movement in decades on the European continent. Close to 1.1 million refugees have arrived in Romania. More than three months since the start of the conflict, Romania continues to respond with hospitality, solidarity and efficiency to the needs of those fleeing Ukraine. The majority of whom are

Considering the emergency and the scale of humanitarian needs of refugees from Ukraine, an inter-agency regional refugee response is under way, in support of the efforts of refugee-hosting countries.

The Refugee Response Plan brings together UN agencies, international and national NGOs and other relevant partners to work together in

support of the Government of Romania to ensure protection and assistance for refugees and third-country nationals fleeing from Ukraine. The response prioritizes the provision of critical protection services and humanitarian assistance, as displacement and needs continue to grow.

KEY FIGURES*

4.7 M

Refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe (as of 31 May)

1.08 M

Total refugees who have entered Romania (as of 31 May)

84.8 K

Ukrainian refugees remain in Romania (as of 31 May)

32.5 K

Applied for temporary protection permit in Romania (as of 31 May)

67 %

of refugees applying for temporary protection are women (as of 31 May)

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

USD 1.85 B

Overall financial requirements

USD 90.2 M

Funding received

38 %

Percent funded

USD 239.9 M

Financial requirements for the Romania response

24

Partners involved in the Romania response

*See the [Operational Data Portal for the Ukraine Refugee Situation](#) 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

This report was produced by UNHCR in collaboration with inter-agency partners.

As of 31 May, at least 4.7 million refugees from Ukraine have been recorded across Europe. A total of 1,087,995 have arrived in Romania, with some 84,808 choosing to remain in the country. Some 32,522 have applied for temporary protection, which allows for access to healthcare, education, and the labor market. The majority of refugees are staying in the largest cities including Bucharest, Constanta, Brasov, Galati, Iasi and Suceava.

The Government of Romania, civil society, United Nations Agencies and international organizations continue to respond to the emergency as well as the medium- and longer-term needs, both at the border and in areas where refugees are settling. RRP partners are working with authorities at central and local levels to support refugees' access to services and rights, in accordance with temporary protection status.



On 10 March 2022, refugee mother warming her child at the customs area of the Republic of Moldova, Palanca. UNHCR helps people fleeing Ukraine move on to safety in Romania. © UNHCR/Mihai von Eremia.



PROTECTION

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR and the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR), provided in-person support to more than 8,700 refugees, and hotline support to over 9,600. The information requested focuses on cash assistance, temporary protection, transportation to other EU countries, long-term accommodation, food, employment, education, and access to medical services.
- UNHCR and IOM continue to jointly support the authorities of Romania and Moldova by facilitating fast-track transfers from Palanca border crossing point with Ukraine, in Moldova, to Huși, Romania. Around 11,000 people have been transported to Romania through this mechanism, as of 31 May. UNHCR partner ACTED also provides transportation for people from border crossing points to other locations in Moldova and Romania.
- IOM and partners developed and circulated digital information on the rights of refugees, protection and safe assistance services available in Romania, in multiple languages - Ukrainian, English, Romanian, and Russian. Social media communication reached over 120,000 people on Facebook.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is a need for data collection on activities and services offered at Blue Dots, as well as prioritization of targeted populations.
- Roll-out of protection programming by partners should increase and expand geographical coverage.



CHILD PROTECTION

Achievements and Impact

- UNICEF and UNHCR continued to strengthen their presence and improve the quality of services at existing Blue Dots, serving approximately 5,000 refugees, mainly women and children.
- Terre des Hommes (TdH) operates in 4 locations in Bucharest providing mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services, individual protection assistance (identification, referrals, and direct support to families/children in need), psychological support services (PSS) in child-friendly spaces and mother and baby corners, psychological first aid, and individual and group counselling.
- In May 2022, over 150 Government officials, humanitarian workers and volunteers in Siret and Sighet border areas have been trained on refugee protection, gender-based violence, accountability to affected people and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. On 24-25 May, UNHCR conducted a capacity-building session on child protection for 22 Border Police and Frontex officers at Sighet border point.
- Cevsi, in collaboration with its two partner organizations, provided recreational activities and initial psychological support to about 20 children in a child safe space in Sighetu-Marmatiei and about 35 children in a municipal shelter in Tulcea.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- As refugees live in various locations in Romania, outreach to refugee children to identify and respond to their needs is both a challenge and priority.
- Adolescents might have a heightened risk (including mistreatment, trafficking etc.) as they might have to leave school to work to help provide for their families. The best way to protect adolescents from these risks is to provide them with increased opportunities to engage in various youth activities.
- Roma refugee children remain unidentified and hence underserved. While a warm welcome has been given to most refugees from Ukraine, discrimination against Roma children remained a concern.



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Achievements and Impact

- On 24 May, gender-based violence referral pathways, including information on some 33 NGOs and seven Governmental institutions, have been finalized and shared with all protection actors to enhance access to information and protection services including psychosocial support for those in need.
- As part of the comprehensive protection training, 105 DGASPC staff and 46 NGO staff and volunteers in Siret and Sighet border areas were trained in gender-based violence prevention, core concepts and guiding principles. Additionally, 33 CNRR staff who will be working on Regional Protection Monitoring System (RPMS) were trained in gender-based violence.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is a need for continued training for all actors working at border crossing points.



TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

Achievements and Impact

- In May, the first Crisis Response Anti-Trafficking Task Force (CRATTF) meeting was held with 28 participants from 15 organizations, including UN agencies. Rapid activity mapping, and needs

assessments are underway. The CRATTF action plans and activities are conducted in close cooperation with the Romanian government.

- IOM collaborated with the National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons (ANITP) and ProTECT Platform NGOs to create and disseminate 18,000 anti-trafficking information materials at border crossings.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- A holistic and multi-disciplinary rapid risk assessment regarding trafficking in persons with consequent practical recommendations will be undertaken.
- Prevention and capacity-building on identification and referral amongst first responders and other relevant actors is a priority.



PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (PSEA)

Achievements and Impact

- 33 CNRR staff who will be working on Regional Protection Monitoring System (RPMS) were trained in PSEA core principles, key concepts, victim awareness and reporting mechanisms.
- IOM provided PSEA training to bus drivers on the green humanitarian corridor.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Local organizations are struggling to implement PSEA measures (including reporting and investigation mechanisms), despite this being an organizational priority, largely due to lack of capacity and experience of working in a refugee context and the associated standards and practices.



CASH-BASED ASSISTANCE

Achievements and Impact

- As of 31 May, UNHCR had enrolled 5,100 individuals and cash had been transferred to around 4,900 in Bucharest and Brasov. The enrolment was done through the centers in Bucharest and Brasov. Additional sites will open in June, in Galati, Iasi and Suceava.
- Save the Children implemented cash and voucher assistance activities in Suceava, Iasi, Bucharest, Baia Mare and Galati. A total of 4,511 vouchers have been distributed since April and 243 individuals received wire transfers to their Ukrainian bank account to cover three months of basic needs. In addition, a payment order was made for an additional 3,746 individuals (1,252 households).
- Save the Children teams registered almost 3,900 Ukrainian people for cash distribution (2,800 at three counselling hubs in Iasi, Bucharest and Baia Mare and another 1,100 people self-registered through the application). Until 31 May, around 300 transfers were wired.
- Since March, CORE has distributed 1,780 cash vouchers to refugees in Ilfov (Popesti Leodeni & Bragadiru), Galati, Timisoara, Maramureş (Somcuta Mare) and Suceava (Suceava and Cacica).
- Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS) Romania continued to offer 1,200 vouchers per month.
- As of 31 May, the Red Cross registered about 42,000 individuals for cash distribution.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Further efforts are needed to ensure that the sector meets key guidance from authorities to increase the sustainability of cash-based assistance, avoid duplication and focus on refugees intending to remain in Romania.



EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

- UNICEF and the Ministry of Education agreed to develop an online data platform for the rapid collection of student-level data, particularly the registration and attendance of Ukrainian children, both in formal and non-formal education.
- UNICEF provided school-in-a-box, backpacks, and early childhood development kits to refugee children at three Blue Dots, covering 900 refugee children with individual and school supplies in Bucharest and Campulung. Up to 278 children accessed non-formal education, including early learning services, at two daycares and four educational centers supported by UNICEF partners, Regina Maria Foundation and Romanian Angel Appeal.
- UNICEF, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Romanian Angel Appeal and Youth for Youth Foundation have started a youth center in Bucharest for children aged 12 years or older. More than 160 youth have registered and will engage in non-formal activities, life skills courses, and will receive psychosocial support through counselling. The center has capacity for over 250 youth and will provide a conducive and safe space for young people to socialize, learn, and develop skills.
- On 31 May the Government of Romania and Plan International co-hosted the “Supporting Refugee Children in Romania” conference on inclusion of Ukrainian refugee children in the national child protection and education systems. RRP partners, including UNICEF and UNHCR, participated.
- Save the Children Romania continued to support Ukrainian students to access digital learning, recreational activities and mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS) at Uruguay school (40 children) in Bucharest, and Veronica Micle school (52 children) in Iasi.

- The SIERCAR project supported eight temporary learning centers in Bucharest, Galati and Constanta with the incentives and recruitment of 47 teachers. A total of 100 Ukrainian teachers and volunteers were enlisted for training on MHPSS, social and emotional learning SEL, inclusive education, gender transformative learning.
- IOM, together with NGO partners, organizes and delivers Romanian language courses and other educational activities for adults and children. In May, 121 Ukrainian adults and children were registered.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The ongoing mobility of Ukrainians in and out of Romania, as well as within Romania, makes it challenging to predict what enrolment patterns are likely to look like for the 2022-23 school year.
- Education is also an entry point to provide child-centered support and a mechanism to address trauma in children and adolescents. Mainstreaming MHPSS throughout the education system is vital.
- Summer learning centers with Ukrainian teachers should be established outside of Bucharest by qualified experts, if possible, as currently Bucharest receives the most attention while children in need are scattered all around Romania.
- Challenges in identifying and addressing the needs of children with learning or physical disabilities remain. UNICEF and other RRP partners continue to advocate adopting a cross-sectoral approach and a continuous collaboration with other sectors (such as protection and health) to identify and adequately respond to children in need.
- There is a growing need to form a separate Youth Task Force under the Education Working Group to promote programming with and for young people in the context of Ukraine refugee crisis.



HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Achievements and Impact

- WHO is setting up a clinic at the Romexpo site in Bucharest, which will offer family medicine, family planning, and mental health services.
- UNICEF developed guidelines for health workers to promote vaccination and nutrition for newborns in emergency situations. A total of 8,000 guidelines have been printed and disseminated nationwide.
- UNICEF established a partnership with Independent Midwives Associations to provide referral and basic health services for 130 families in Bucharest.
- UNICEF provided nutrition supplies for 882 children in Bucharest. In addition, seven first aid kits, 25 hygiene kits and 580 boxes with vitamins and micronutrients were distributed to schools in Bucharest and Constanta, and at Romexpo.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Language barriers remain a challenge. For the elderly, this is in addition to inadequate involvement in social networks, and lack of technical and media literacy. Translation services and provision of information to refugees regarding healthcare services are required.



MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

- WHO developed content on psychological first aid for WHO LENA app, offering orientation for first responders and other service providers in emergency situations.
- UNICEF developed guidelines on providing psychosocial and mental health support for refugee children. The guidelines have been printed and distributed to 20,000 parents and caregivers in nine

bordering counties, Brasov and Cluj. In addition, the guidelines have been disseminated online for community health nurses and other health workers.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The sector is working to establish MHPSS referral pathways.



BASIC NEEDS – SHELTER, NON-FOOD ITEMS, WASH, FOOD SECURITY

Achievements and Impact

- The UNHCR cash assistance enrolment center in Romexpo, Bucharest is fully operational, next to the Municipality's free supermarket for refugees. The General Inspectorate of Immigration (GII), which now has a regular presence at this center, was invited by UNHCR for issuance of temporary protection status, supported by the European Union Asylum Agency (EUAA). In addition, UNHCR has gathered sister UN Agencies and partner NGOs to provide additional services: the National Romanian Council for Refugees (CNRR) for legal counselling; WHO and the Ministry of Health for health counselling and referrals; and IOM for provision of information on anti-trafficking, transportation, and accommodation. Romexpo is becoming a one-stop-shop for all services. UNHCR will aim for a similar approach in other enrolment centers across Romania.
- The Basic Needs Sector has engaged with UNICEF on four WASH assessments completed in Isaccea, Sighet, Siret and Vaslui. Specifications to provide gender disaggregated toilets with handwashing, shower and disability access have been developed and a market assessment was conducted. These WASH facilities can be attached to plumbing or include a septic tank for mobility.
- UNHCR launched the KoBoToolBox, to assess the furniture and electrical appliance needs at the available shelters and provide support.
- IOM and Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS) continue to offer short-term emergency shelter up to 30 days for people fleeing Ukraine.
- Save the Children assisted to 72,804 Ukrainian children and 51,817 Ukrainian adults through the provision of food, non-food items and counselling.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is a need to update the virtual warehouse to take stock of other supplies that exist, and which agency has supplies planned for various locations.
- Long-term stable and private accommodation for medium- and long-term refugees remains a challenge.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

ACTIONAID | ACTION CONTRE LA FAIM | CARE FRANCE | CESVI | DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL | FEDERATION FOR SOCIAL SERVICES (FONSS) | HABITAT FOR HUMANITY | HOPE AND HOMES FOR CHILDREN | IOM | JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE | MERCY CORPS | NATIONAL YOUTH FOUNDATION | NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL | PLAN INTERNATIONAL | PROJECT HOPE | SAVE THE CHILDREN | TERRE DES HOMMES | UNESCO | UNFPA | UNHCR | UNICEF | WHO | WFP | WORLD VISION

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LINKS | [REGIONAL DATA PORTAL](#) – [UKRAINE SITUATION RRP](#) – [REFUGEE FUNDING TRACKER](#)