



Romania

December 2022

As of 25 December, the number of refugees from Ukraine recorded in Romania has increased to 106,629 persons due to recent arrivals caused by attacks on energy infrastructure in some parts of Ukraine and the deterioration of weather conditions. This figure represents the highest number of refugees in Romania since 24 February 2022.

Refugees are supported by the Government, civil society, private sector actors, international organizations and volunteers'

hospitality and generosity.

UNHCR, together with UN agencies and NGOs, support the national response in coordination with humanitarian actors under the framework of the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) and through the Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) and sector working groups, aligned with the Government National Plan (NP) of Measures.

These plans bring the stakeholders together to ensure a harmonized response in the country.

KEY FIGURES* (as of 25 December)

7.9 M

Refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe

2.5 M

Border crossings into Romania

106 K

Refugees from Ukraine remaining in Romania

102 K

Refugees who obtained temporary protection in Romania

61%

Of refugees who obtained temporary protection are women and girls

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

USD 1.85 B

Overall financial requirements

75%

Funded for the overall RRP

USD 226.6 M

Financial requirements for the Romania response

89%

Funded for the Romania response

22

Appealing partners involved in the Romania RRP

*See the [Operational Data Portal for the Ukraine Refugee Situation](#) and the [Romania 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, about 7.9 million people have sought refuge from Ukraine across Europe. As of 25 December 2022, more than 2,5 million border crossings from Ukraine and Moldova into Romania have been recorded by GII, with some 106,629 people choosing to remain in the country. Around 102,039 Ukrainian and Third Country Nationals (TCNs) have obtained temporary protection, which enables access to healthcare, education, and the labour market. Most refugees are staying in large cities such as Bucharest, Constanta, and Brasov.



Refugee support coordination network meeting in Constanta, 14 December 2022. ©UNHCR/Rebeca Roxana Sabou

To enhance the coordination efforts at local level and harmonise coordination arrangements and principles in Romania, the Inter-Agency Coordination Team, with the support of UNHCR Field Office in Galati, organized two refugee support coordination network meetings in Galati and Constanta on 12 and 14 December 2022 respectively. More than 70 participants representing local authorities, NGOs and partners attended the events. The network provided a space for local actors to hear from local authorities on local and national coordination arrangements, share information on existing programmes and services for the support and integration of refugees and explore steps to enhance coordination between humanitarian actors. The events were the last two of six pilot events planned in November-December 2022 in various cities of Romania hosting high numbers of refugees. As a result of the meetings, the membership of the local integration team - coordinated by the Prefect in Constanta - has been updated and UNHCR, UNICEF, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), Romanian National Council for

Refugees (CNRR), Salvati Copiii România (Save the Children) and World Vision are now officially part of this coordination structure.

Spotlight on: Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)

Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Romania was established in 2000 and is currently working with more than 140 staff and more than 150 volunteers. JRS offers comprehensive assistance for foreigners throughout all phases of the migration cycle - arrival at the borders, asylum and integration, detention, toleration, or repatriation. JRS implements projects under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund in partnerships with i.a. Save the Children and Terre des Hommes.

Under the Refugee Response Plan (RRP), access to education for refugee children in Romania remains a priority and a commitment of the partners under the RRP. JRS is supporting Ukrainian refugee children with enrolment and attendance in Romanian schools, as well as with non-formal learning activities. JRS is currently running a comprehensive educational program as part of a wider approach to promoting self-reliance among the refugees and comprehensive support for integration. The project has a dual purpose – to

promote social cohesion by bringing Ukrainian children in close contact with their Romanian peers and to allow parents to participate in the labour market while their children are attending schools.



Activities organized in the Education Hub at School 11 in Constanta, May 2022. ©JRS

To strengthen the national education system, JRS employs more than 100 Ukrainian teachers that are seconded to the Romanian schools, in coordination with the respective local School Inspectorates. This allows Ukrainian children to continue their national educational curriculum while in Romania and, at the same time, to be included in schools, get access to the Romanian curricula, to interact with Romanian children which -in turn- enhances social cohesion and inclusion. Through the 23 Education Hubs and various educational centres supported by JRS, over 2,500 children are enrolled and attending classes in Bucharest (Mihai Viteazu College, Ienachita Vacarescu School, Uruguay School, School 86 and 116, SEK School, and other educational centres), Constanta (Schools 6,11,16 and 40), Galati, Braila, Ploiesti and Medias.

The project built on a Plan International initiative focused on setting up Education Hubs and non-formal education centres and summer camps, as well as on building up a strong community of Ukrainian refugee teachers through organizing trainings and a national conference. Since then, a variety of partners worked together to support the educational project. New education centres in areas hosting smaller refugee communities, peer-to-peer mentoring, and psychological support is supported through UNICEF and food needs are met by World Vision providing hot meals to children enrolled in educational activities in Constanta and Galati.

Ukrainian refugee children in Constanta received gifts from Santa Claus

on 27 December 2022, Santa Claus visited refugee children and their parents during an event organized by the Civic Resource Center (CRC) in Constanta. Santa brought Christmas cheers and gifts for the hundreds of people present at the event. Their main activities include group therapy, thematic decorations, art workshops and drawing to help children regain a good mental state to overcome the trauma of their dislocation from home. CRC implements an educational project entitled “A chance at normal life”, offering education services to Ukrainian children, including Romanian and English language courses.



PROTECTION

Achievements and Impact

- As in the previous months, protection partners continued to focus on the provision of information and awareness raising activities at the borders and in urban centers during the month of December, which witnessed an increasing number of refugees from Ukraine remaining in the country. In December, UNHCR and its Romanian partner, CNRR provided protection support, advice, referrals and information to over 65,000 refugees. Over 47,500 were assisted in person and another 18,000 remotely through helplines. These activities ensure refugees are informed on available services in Romania and are better suited to make well-informed decisions.

- To better understand refugees' needs, CNRR organized community consultations with members of the Ukrainian refugee community in different parts of the country. Two were held in Verești and Gura Humorului (Suceava County), in cooperation with JRS Romania, to identify the needs of more than 60 institutionalized Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC). Six sessions were held in Constanța, Iasi, Suceava and Galati to assist with medium-term integration needs and plans, including on employment, education and housing. Also, CNRR held local coordination meetings with UN agencies and local and international NGOs in Iași (20 participants) and Suceava counties (21 participants). As a result, the need for coordinating advocacy efforts and service provision to facilitate school enrolment, employment, and further integration was identified.
- PATRIR, at their Ukraine House Community Centres in Cluj-Napoca and Sighisoara, along with ROUA (the Ukrainian Refugee Community Centre in Baia Mare) provided Psychosocial care to 150 beneficiaries, provided basic needs packages to 2,264 beneficiaries, provided language courses (Romanian and English) to 254 beneficiaries, and had 1,005 beneficiaries participating in Ukrainian community holiday events or integration and capacity building events. These events and services helped create a sense of community, well-being and care, as well as hope for the future of life in Romania with a view to inclusion and social cohesion. Capacity building supported increasing integration into society and the job market.
- Recognizing the importance of social cohesion as a driver of long-term prosperity, UNICEF launched an online campaign to promote social cohesion in host communities across Romania. So far, the campaign engaged 1,643 people of the 256,160 reached.
- To address ongoing protection needs in urban areas, Terre de hommes (TdH) continued its work in Bucharest, Brasov and Constanta (through its partnership with the Civic Resource Centre) implementing Individual Protection Assistance (IPA) for both children and adults either through direct services or referrals (e.g., food, doctors' appointments, support for legal documents, translation, transport to services). Over the month, 53 adults benefited from IPA in Bucharest (29), Brasov (13) and Constanta (11). In Brasov, in addition to IPA, TdH also coordinated social events like a visit to Peles castle, a Christmas decoration workshop and a New Year's Eve Celebration for both children and their parents to enhance the feeling of "belonging" in Romania.
- Information counselling and assistance remains a core priority. IOM provided integrated assistance to 726 Ukrainians on a range of aspects such as housing and local service access including through outreach via mobile team to 5 collective centres. RoJa Center assisted over 100 Ukrainians in December with social information, legal support, and counselling on how to access education, social benefits, healthcare, or other services according to their needs. FONSS provided direct protection services to over 2,000 people in Iasi, Suceava, Bacau, Galati and Bucharest.
- Integrated service hubs around the country continue to play an important role with providing critical services and information to refugees. At the multipurpose center in Bucharest, RomExpo, a steady increase of refugees resulted in around 500-600 refugees, and some days even more, approaching daily. The multipurpose center provides a safe space where refugees can receive integrated services and information from UNHCR, governmental institutions and partners. In the first week of the month, UNHCR with support from DSU, set up a new waiting area to accommodate the increasing number of refugees visiting RomExpo and the nearby municipal shop, and made additional changes to the interior space for winterization purposes.
- During counselling and interventions, partners frequently received inquiries related to accommodation, including information provision on the Romanian Government's 50/20 programme. To support discussions around the future of the programme, UNHCR undertook a survey to evaluate the impact, use and satisfaction of the programme. The findings of this survey show a high degree of satisfaction among refugee respondents with the 50/20 programme, with nearly 90% being satisfied or very satisfied with it.
- To identify relevant social services and institutions that could support the integration of refugees in 2023, FONSS and partners rolled out a complex mapping activity in December

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Issues related to access to special medical care remain a key challenge as Ukrainian refugees struggle to register with a Romanian general practitioner (family doctor) due to numerous issues such as language barriers and a lack of address on the temporary protection certificate, for example. There is also a growing need for processes that involve notary services that are costly for Ukrainians, especially with translation costs, to help ensure the desired outcomes are achieved through such services.



ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS (AAP) / COMMUNICATION WITH COMMUNITIES (CWC)

Achievements and Impact

- To keep refugees informed, UNHCR continue to maintain communication with communities through a dedicated Telegram channel. Key information on various services provided by UNHCR and partners are disseminated using this channel which reached a record number of 7,000 subscribers in December.
- To ensure vital information and communication can be accessed, understood, and used by all groups of people, CLEAR Global delivered online trainings on language and communication in emergencies adapted and refined for country contexts. This included four humanitarian interpreter training and training for cultural mediators on communication in emergencies for 22 volunteers. Additionally, CLEAR Global developed a response-specific glossary focused initially on protection, legal, gender-based violence prevention and response, and general medical terminology. The glossary can be found at <https://glossaries.clearglobal.org/oxfam/> in English, Ukrainian, Romanian, Polish, and Russian languages. The glossary has been the product of a variety of organizations which contributed to the selection of terms, development of definitions, and the testing and validation of translations with staff, volunteers, and community members. The term list and definitions were agreed as part of a wide consultation process with citizens who are working on the humanitarian response in Poland and Romania, and with Ukrainians both within and outside Ukraine.
- Tackling the importance of adolescents' emotional health, a survey on the refugee adolescents' wellbeing and perceptions on mental health was carried out by UNICEF. Respondents stated that the main sources used by teenagers for learning about mental health and coping mechanisms are online sources: social media (18.8%) and online communities (18.8%). The least used sources are teachers, doctors/therapists, apps for mental health and influencers.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- As humanitarian needs continue to rise against the backdrop of a long-term conflict, resumption of the school year and the arrival of winter will bring new challenges, as will crisis fatigue and perceived resource imbalances in hosting countries. Addressing them with clear communication, in peoples' preferred language and format, as well as providing easier access to verified, up-to-date and translated information, is a priority.
- Increased attention is needed to address information barriers that may exist for the most vulnerable, like people with disabilities, people with impaired vision, elderly and children.



CHILD PROTECTION (CP)

Achievements and Impact

- As part of the strengthening of the systems and to enhance ownership and sustainability of case management and data system in the registration of refugee children, UNICEF fully handed over the Primero case management system to the National Authority for the Protection of Children's Rights and Adoption (ANPDCA).
- Strengthening of national systems remains core for the RRP partners. As part of a broader effort to ensure a more child- and victim-friendly child protection system that can respond to victims of child abuse, sexual exploitation/trafficking in both the refugee and host population, VIS Organization with the support of UNICEF completed a forensic training for 25 prosecutors, doctors, and forensic psychologists (20 female and five male). CNRR organized an informative session with 15 representatives of the General Directorates for Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC) in Bucharest, to discuss issues pertaining to the integration of refugee children, their access to education and healthcare, as well as the responsibilities of the legal representatives. And, as part of its strategy to strengthen the capacity of personnel from the accommodation centers in identifying potential child trafficking victims and to prevent safeguarding concerns, eLiberare, in partnership with UNICEF, trained eleven females and four male personnel at the Tei Accommodation Center in Bucharest. To monitor children persistence and engagement in schools, the Four Change Association continued their work through the social and community workers, monitoring 33 children with regards to their school attendance and needs.
- At the same time, direct services to children at risk remains crucial. TdH, in partnership with UNHCR, carried out Individual Protection Assistance (IPA), MHPSS and Educational activities in Bucharest, Brasov and Constanta. Overall, the interventions supported 1,504 children in the three cities (546 in Bucharest, 432 in Constanta and 526 in Brasov). 182 Group sessions and 71 individual MHPSS sessions were organized for over 900 children in Bucharest, Constanta and Brasov. Additionally, 270 children benefited from language lessons in Bucharest and Constanta, 213 children benefited from Individual Protection Assistance (like winter clothing, food, doctor's appointments, support for legal documents, and translations) in Bucharest, Brasov and Constanta. At Delfinul rehabilitation complex, 24 children with disabilities and 36 adults from Ukraine had access to physiotherapy, hydrotherapy and specific therapies for autistic children, including development of cognitive and sensorial functions. Autism Voice provided specialized support to seven families living in the organization's house and offered specific therapies to children, psychological support to parents and counselling and information for accessing medical and social services in Bucharest. Asociația Social Activ-ASA continued to work with kids and youth from Rizănești (Vălenii de Munte) and Bucharest, providing social counselling and personal development, psychological counselling and emotional support. Their services were provided by a team of social workers and psychotherapists and benefited 40 kids and youth in social houses and more than 100 online (support groups, social media groups, WhatsApp groups).
- The celebration of Christmas brought a lot of joy to the Ukrainian children and parents. The Social Emergency Center of the Bucovina Institute at the Municipal Theatre Matei Visniec in Suceava organized a show in which 150 Ukrainian children welcomed the visit of Santa Clause.
- IOM organized socio-cultural and educational activities, including language courses for approximately 185 children from Ukraine.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The language barrier remains a main factor in school drop-out among of Ukrainian children to attend school. This is significant for child protection, because dropping out of school can put children at greater risk of child protection violations.
- Speech therapy has been considerably requested, as well as individual mental health sessions for psychosocial support for children.



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

Achievements and Impact

- UNFPA, through its regional partner, the East European Institute for Reproductive Health, started arranging Safe Spaces for Women and Girls in Bucharest, Baia-Mare, Brasov and Tirgu-Mures to provide rights-based and gender-sensitive SRH and GBV services for Ukrainian refugees. Sensiblu Foundation, UNHCR's partner, organised two roundtables on GBV in Bucharest and Suceava. Each meeting brought together more than 20 representatives of public institutions and NGOs to discuss needs and gaps in service provision for GBV survivors.
- UNFPA also procured winterized hygiene and dignity kit items to be distributed through these Safe Spaces to meet the women's special health and hygiene's needs. Sensiblu Foundation distributed 145 dignity kits to women participating in support group sessions and approximately 350 awareness-raising brochures to refugee women, public institutions, and NGOs working in Bucharest and Suceava.
- Sensiblu Foundation also organised a gift-giving campaign which culminated in an event on 20 December celebrating the resilience and strength of refugee women and children during which gifts were distributed to refugee children in Suceava.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The GBV Sub-Working Group is drafting an action plan for 2023 to coordinate an effective response to identified needs. Activities include a risk assessment and training to front-line service-providers.



PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (PSEA)

Achievements and Impact

- PSEA awareness-raising and information on how to make complaints remains critical. To that end, PSEA Awareness-raising signs were installed at RomExpo to facilitate awareness raising on key PSEA messages as the centre has a flow of several hundred refugees per day. IOM trained 16 new staff members and 4 implementing partners on PSEA. It also posted PSEA messages in social media which reached 300 people.
- In addition to information awareness, PSEA systems continue to be strengthened. UNHCR finalised PSEA capacity assessments for its fifteen partners in Romania and is jointly developing capacity-strengthening plans with partners to address identified gaps. The Safeguarding Support Hub, under TdH, produced a Bitesize on Safeguarding the Roma Community in Ukraine and as refugees in Poland, Romania, and Moldova. It explores the main safeguarding risks faced by Roma refugees from Ukraine and provides an useful overview of organisations working on Roma concerns in Moldova, Poland and

Romania. The Hub also published a Tip Sheet on People with disabilities and the safeguarding journey that outlines key overarching principles and recommendations which civil society organizations in Romania can consider when applying a disability-inclusive safeguarding approach. Salvați Copiii trained 72 local authorities in Safeguarding and PSEA in December in Tulcea county. The training was focused on mainstreaming safeguarding and PSEA policies for public institutions and organisation level. And finally, CLEAR Global presented its updated PSEA Glossary and its set of practical resources to include a Tip sheet for community interpreters and a tip sheet for Plain Language writing for English and Ukrainian to the PSEA Network.

- WHO Romania participated in the PSEA Operational Review for the Ukraine Response. WHO convened those working on PSEA to identify lessons learned, best practices and identifying of priorities for the path forward.



TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (TIP)

Achievements and Impact

- Labour exploitation, awareness and human rights continued to be priorities of interventions for the organizations working in the anti-trafficking area. eLiberare and partners launched <http://robotainfo.com> in December, a platform developed with the aim to prevent labour exploitation among Ukrainian refugees. In an effort to promote the platform within the communities, more than 30 centers hosting refugees or organizing activities for refugees received materials to be distributed, over 1,000 people were directly informed and more than 10,000 people watched the online videos and visuals during the campaign. As a result, many Ukrainians with jobs in Romania reported that they signed their work contracts in Romanian, although they don't understand the language. IOM also reached 1,535 people through the social media content aimed at prevention of trafficking.
- Between 6-7 December 2022, IOM organized a capacity building session for the Romanian authorities, gathering 42 participants to discuss on the good practices learned throughout the years, update and enhance the Romanian legislation in the field of counter trafficking and assistance of victims, as well as the collaboration protocol regarding the coordination of victims in legal proceedings.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is an ongoing need for an effective vetting system to verify individuals offering accommodation, transport and jobs to Ukrainian refugees, as well as volunteers collaborating with the response. Additionally, there is a need to strengthen cooperation between organizations and public authorities for a more efficient identification and referral of survivors of trafficking, including to the asylum procedure in Romania.
- There is a continuing demand to raising awareness among people fleeing Ukraine about labour exploitation and other forms of trafficking (servitude, begging, and extraction of organs). On the other hand, it is important to raise awareness among Romanian employers about their responsibilities when hiring Ukrainians (work contract in a language the person knows, signing a contract, working hours and days off etc.)
- Better understanding of various forms of human trafficking should be promoted among Ukrainian refugees and TCNs, as well as raising awareness of information about the modus operandi of trafficking networks and indicators of exploitation.
- An important gap remains the capacity of the law enforcement authorities, with a need to train specialised staff and shelters for child survivors of trafficking.

- There is a need to develop Safety Procedures for Centers who host refugees and for Centers who are organizing activities for refugees.
- There is a need of specialized trauma recovery professionals in order to offer psychological counselling and support to children who are survivors of trafficking. Also, even if the half of the trafficking survivors identified are children, there are not sufficient specialized shelters to assist and protect these minors, based on their individual needs and the best interest of the child.



EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

- As of 16 December 2022, 4,008 Ukrainian children were officially enrolled in the national education system, 1,431 at pre-primary level, 1,331 at primary level, and 1,246 at secondary level. Out of these, 78% are enrolled in the 'audience' format
- To facilitate inclusion and learning for all refugee children, flexible approaches are offered with options including or combining inclusion into Romanian schools, online learning, special classes and after-school activities offering learning support ('learning hubs') facilitated by Ukrainian-speaking educators or in third language education (English). RRP partners continue to facilitate access primarily to classroom-type education that encourages face-to-face learning and personal interactions, to language courses in Romanian, MHPSS and recreational activities to support their integration, and to online learning, when necessary, with about 6,000 children and adolescents benefiting thus far.
- To enhance the availability of learning places, RRP partners have continued to support the provision of supplies. Through UNICEF, more than 160 schools-in-a-box (benefiting up to 4,600 children) have been distributed, as well as school kits and stationeries for pupils. Terre des hommes' educational activities have continued concentrating on Romanian and English language courses, kits distribution and supporting Ukrainian children's integration in the formal educational environment through various activities within schools, including MPHSS. Overall, 687 individuals have been benefiting (222 in Bucharest and 465 in Constanta). Plan International, in collaboration with JRS, has opened four new learning hubs (one in Bucharest and three in Constanta, with 282 beneficiaries in total) as well as two more English learning groups in Constanta. Weekly psychological group support sessions were also offered for teenagers (10-16) alongside individual counselling. Educational activities are ongoing in the 20 learning hubs and temporary learning centers established so far with support from Plan International (10 in Bucharest, 5 in Constanta, 4 in Galati and 1 in Braila).
- Save the Children has launched a free book app for Ukrainian children. Powered by Save the Children, the free "Library For All" app has been created to ensure children can keep reading and learning anywhere. The online library includes Ukrainian books for young readers to older primary school children. Books are in Ukrainian and cover a wide range of interest areas to engage every child. Over time new titles will be added to help families continue to foster a love of reading. The app is available for free download at <https://libraryforall.org/ukraine/>.
- IOM organized Romanian language courses for 221 adults and children. The IOM team is also organizing orientation sessions and non-formal education activities for Ukrainians and provide interpreting support in several schools in Romania.
- In December, UNICEF entered new partnerships with Bearing Fruit and FITT to extend access to education services for refugee children in Sibiu and Timisoara respectively, thereby reinforcing education interventions already deployed in Bucharest, Iasi, Constanta, Brasov, Cluj-Napoca, and Galati. A new cohort of 71 teachers, mainly Ukrainian and Romanian teachers, benefited also from the training

programme on 'Teaching and Learning in Difficult Times' organized in partnership between UNICEF, IOM and the British Council.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- While online learning continues to prevail among beneficiaries, either as an alternative or complementary learning modality, recent assessments suggest that there is still moderate but rising demand for enrolment in Romanian schools. However, the inclusion and retention of Ukrainian children in Romanian schools remains a challenge, mainly due to language barriers, classroom availability, pedagogical differences, Ukrainian hope for limited stay in Romania, perceived complex process for certification, unequal enrolment capacities at decentralized/local level, and MoE of Ukraine's encouragements to maintain a link with the Ukrainian system (via online support).
- The education response needs to be strengthened to better accommodate the needs of pre-primary school aged children (in considering the limited capacity of kindergartens and preschools especially), of older adolescents, and of children with disabilities in particular, in collaboration with other sectors.
- Interventions also need to be guided by a sound information and coordinated M&E system, both at national and decentralized levels, under the leadership of education authorities.
- Further efforts are still needed to expand the provision of education services for Ukrainian refugee children and adolescents countrywide. More investments in the provision of Romanian language courses and in teacher training activities are required to facilitate inclusion and retention in Romanian schools. Alternative and complementary learning modalities still need to be developed also for children who cannot be integrated into Romanian schools yet, in order to help them continue learning and manage transitions progressively.
- Several learning hubs are still in need of school supplies including Ukrainian textbooks. Additional psychological support for teachers, children and parents is also needed.
- Afterschool activities with face-to-face activities and personal interactions need to be further developed, as many Ukrainian children and adolescents continue to study online.



HEALTH

Achievements and Impact

- In December, WHO delivered supplies and equipment to meet the shortages identified in the healthcare system and as requested by the Romanian Government for a total value of one million USD. The supplies included 3,200 rapid COVID-19 tests, 8,000 contraceptives, 79,000 alcohol-based hand rubs, 30,000 medical masks, 73 UNFPA kits, 109 AEDs, 200 patient monitors, 20 medical stretchers, and 228 chemical protection kits. Distribution to medical facilities is ongoing.
- To help strengthen the national system, WHO provided technical support and coordination to the Working Group established by the Ministry of Health for developing a plan of measures for SRH, including humanitarian response, under Romania's health strategy.
- To facilitate refugees' access to health care, important initiatives have been undertaken. The Migrant Integration Center continued with medical support interventions such as the registration of refugees to family doctors, translations, appointments and accompaniment to family doctors and specialist doctors. It also continued the communication with the Health Insurance House and translated the guide on the rights granted by the Insurance House to the refugees (http://cas.cnas.ro/casbv/media/pageFiles/Ghid_tradus_in_%20imba_rusa.pdf). The Migrant Integration

Center and the Community Foundation Brasov provided medical refunds for various services and treatments accessed by the refugees. In December, a total of 186 interventions took place. Also, Romanian Angel Appeal Foundation (RAA) created a health literacy resource for Ukrainian refugees called "Access to health services for Ukrainian citizens". The resource is a series of 11 videos posted in mid-December 2022 on YouTube in Ukrainian, with Romanian subtitles. The videos aim at helping users understand how they can get access to medical services covered through the Romanian social health insurance system. Users can learn how to gain insured status, what services are provided in different medical settings, how to access lab work, medical imaging, and medicines; what treatments are covered for various chronic illnesses or pregnancy. In less than two weeks, the videos reached 1,822 views on Meta (Facebook and Instagram) and 203 views on YouTube (<https://youtu.be/cSulSBh-q4Y>). RAA will continue to promote the videos in the following months.

- Primary healthcare services continued to be provided by WHO in the clinics at Romexpo, including family doctors' check-ups, sexual and reproductive health care and mental health services to around 250 refugees. 314 people were evaluated by the IOM medical team, 371 persons were referred for additional medical investigations and consultations and 150 were supported with the registration with family physicians during December. Up to date, more than 6,500 Ukrainian nationals (adults and children) were directly assisted by IOM Romania with medical evaluations, medicines, support for additional investigations, registration with family physicians and services alike. Nearly 16,000 children and women accessed primary health care and specialized services through UNICEF supported mechanisms at national level and 82,132 parents and children guardians were reached with health promotion and services referral information. UNICEF implementing partners continued to offer IYCF counselling for 1,143 primary caregiver of children 0-23 months. Year to date, 15,430 people were reached through UNICEF partners with hygiene and WASH supplies. The Romanian National Alliance for Rare Diseases- RONARD and Romanian Prader Willi Association through NoRo Center provided healthcare services, support, referrals and information in 8 counties resulting in 102 refugees with rare diseases having access to diagnostics (10 patients), treatment and care (80 patients), other cross border care coordination (12 patients). These interventions ensure that refugees have access to suitable diagnostics and treatment services available in Romania and are better suited to make well-informed decisions.
- UNFPA, through its regional implementing partner, the East European Institute for Reproductive Health, procured winterized hygiene and dignity kit items to be distributed through their Safe Spaces, to meet the women's special health and hygiene's needs.
- The Society for Education on Contraception and Sexuality (SECS) continued to support the refugee women and helped 22 refugee women with accessing gynaecological services throughout December. These included 16 consultations, one abortion and 13 intravaginal ultrasounds.



MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

Achievements and Impact

- MHPSS service delivery continues to provide services to meet the increased demands. IOM continued to provide mental health and psychosocial support in several cities across Romania, including Bucharest, Brasov, Cluj-Napoca and Iasi, through a team of psychologists, caseworkers, and other specialized personnel from IOM and Implementing partners (IPs). In December, IOM organized individual counselling sessions for adults and children, group sessions, family counselling, formal and non-formal activities meant to enhance the resilience of the beneficiaries and support their interaction with the host community or between them, reaching a total number of 348 Ukrainians. Around 80 individual and group sessions were also organized with the support of the specialized personnel. Action Contre la Faim (ACF) in collaboration with the local partner, ParentIS Association in Iasi, assisted 569 Ukrainian refugees,

conducting 663 MHPSS consultations and 141 Care Practices sessions. Tdh began individual MHPSS sessions for children. Tdh made six Child Friendly Spaces operational in Bucharest, one in Constanta and 1 in Brasov. During 182 group and 71 individual MHPSS sessions, 444 adults / 917 children were reached (61 adults/ 255 children in Bucharest, 119 adults / 172 children in Constanta and 264 adults / 490 children in Brasov). In the transit centre, 56 adults / 42 children were supported through direct MHPSS services or referrals. The Migrant Integration Center, financed by Solidar Suisse and its partners, continued with socio-psychological and and psycho-social support for Ukrainians. The two psychologists in charge offered 75 individual sessions and 11 group sessions. And UNICEF supported 15,735 children and caregivers to access MHPSS nationwide.

- To enhance outreach, Terre des Hommes deployed two mobile teams In Bucharest to carry out activities in eight permanent and semi-permanent centers, as well as schools: Mihai Viteazul, Ienachita Vacarescu, Lacul Tei, Robin Hood, Buftea school, FCSB, Edmund Nicolau and School no.6. Their efforts focused on individual and group MHPSS, Romanian language courses, kits distribution and Individual Protection Assistance. In the transit centre, adults and children have been supported through Psychological First Aid, adapted information, accompaniment to services, translation, as well as referrals. Similarly, To reach the refugees living outside major urban areas, the Migrant Integration Center, with support of the Danish Refugee Council, developed a mobile team that will address the communities outside of the City of Brasov. The mobile team is focused on information provision, protection monitoring and protection assistance.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- An existing gap is the missing trained translators to facilitate access to services.
- There is a need to identify means to facilitate the access and the availability of assistance for Ukrainian children with autism spectrum disorder and special educational needs. Speech therapy has been considerably requested as well.
- There is a continuous need to provide psychosocial support to adults, as they are confused, face burn-out and feel they have lost control over their lives. They stated they have trouble in connecting with their children. Mothers, especially, as they lost their support system in caring (husbands, grandparents, neighbors) face difficulties to connect and relate to their children.



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

Achievements and Impact

- Emergency protection interventions remain crucial and fast-track transfers facilitated jointly by IOM and UNHCR, in support of the DSU, continued to transport refugees from Ukraine to Romania via Moldova. As of 31 December, 14.636 refugees from Ukraine have been transported to Romania.
- Supporting infrastructure, UNICEF procured around 27 Containerized toilets and showers, to ensure access to good hygiene practices for refugees in the transit and accommodation centers. UNICEF have also purchased 10 washing machines and 10 dryers for clothes washing (& drying) to be installed in some of the containers and transit and accommodation centers.
- Several RRP partners enhanced the availability of accommodation to refugees from Ukraine. Habitat for Humanity finalized the renovation of the 3rd floor at the Edmond Center, including four rooms, an all-equipped kitchen and a toilet. The organizations also provided 11 heaters to families that live in apartments and over 70 travel bags and blankets to refugees from Edmond and Bratianu Center. From

July to December, Habitat for Humanity rented out for free 30 apartments to more than 130 Ukrainian, guaranteeing safe and furnished accommodation. In Iasi, 191 persons were accommodated in Nicolina Centre, managed by FONSS and its partners (Afterhills, ParentIS and Groupe Our Smile), with an average of 80 persons daily, from which 28 persons dependent elderly and 15 persons confronted with chronic illnesses or disabilities. Dormitory no. 2 in Bucharest continued to accommodate between 170 and 250 people daily and to support families with special needs, the Autism Voice House in Bucharest offered daily shelter and basic supplies to about 8 families with autistic children. IOM provided accommodation to 116 people fleeing the conflict in Ukraine.

- In addition, partners continued to provide core relief items and food during the winter season. To date, IOM distributed 32.779 Non-Food Items (NFIs), and 245.519 hygiene items across Romania, reaching a total number of 7.831 beneficiaries. World Vision distributed 3.000 blankets and 2.000 mattresses in Iasi, as well as continuous food assistance (rice and pasta) at Romexpo. The 25 people accommodated in the Holland Hostel in Bacau received food and non-food items, clothes and vouchers to meet their basic needs during December. In the FONSS-run Nicolina center in Isai, About 1200 persons were provided with food, hygiene products and clothes through the Social Shop RoUa. In Suceava county, the Social Emergency Center of Bucovina Institute supported 376 families (905 persons) with basic supplied such as food and non-food items.
- Christmas time was also about solidarity and giving back in the Nicolina Centre in Isasi. Refugees decided to cook for the vulnerable people from Iasi and surrounding areas, distributing 500 menus on Christmas Eve for Romanians and Ukrainians. The refugees donated handmade products such as scarfs, wool socks and knitwear to soldiers in Ukraine, who face the cold wintertime in the war zone.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The uncertain perspective of the 50-20 program makes the planning of basic support activities in 2023 challenging.
- Local NGOs are not eligible for the reimbursement of food supplies, from public funds, which makes this activity completely dependent of international support.
- CNRR's teams in the border regions identified winter clothes for children as the largest identified need, besides that of financial aid, food, and housing.



CASH-BASED ASSISTANCE

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR delivered MPC assistance to over 37,100 persons, one additional month of MPC assistance to over 13,500 persons and cash for winterization assistance to over 24,700 persons. The enrolment for one-off winterization assistance is ongoing for new arrivals and UNHCR enrolled over 2,450 people from 16th December 2022 to 31 December 2022.
- All partners, who signed the Data Sharing agreement (DSA) for deduplication were trained on the RAIS (UNHCR deduplication tool). The deduplication for MPC assistance between UNHCR and Red Cross/IFRC is ongoing retroactively at regional level for whole year of 2022. The deduplication for cash for winterization assistance is in process with IFRC at regional level as well.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- All partners, signed the DSA, has access to RAIS platform and some partners uploaded the data for deduplication. However, the deduplication process is not fully functional yet due to technical glitches in the system. UNHCR plans to upload the remain data for assisted households during January 2023.



LIVELIHOODS AND INCLUSION

Achievements and Impact

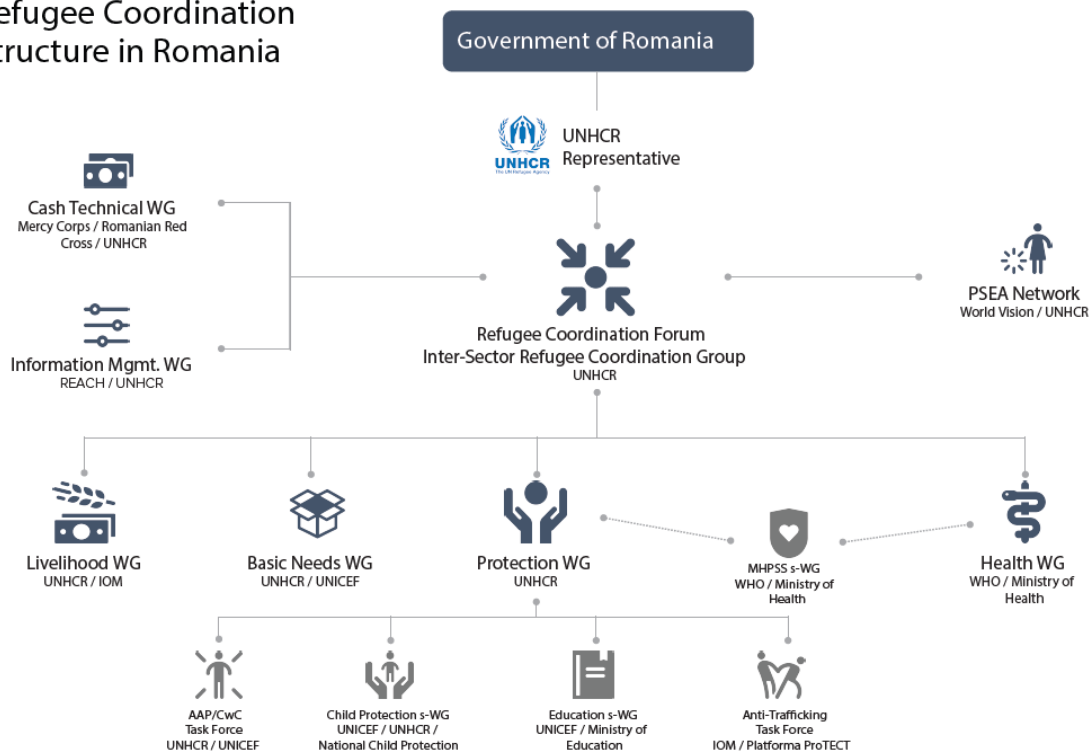
- As of the 30th of December, 2,666 individuals and 1,312 employers in Romania have registered on the Jobs4Ukraine platform, and 323 job matches (mutually expressed interest between job seeker and employer) have been facilitated. Throughout the region, including Romania, the platform has registered a total of 7,616 unique job seekers, 2,116 unique employers and has facilitated a total of 3,553 interactions which include job applications, invitations to apply sent by employers and matches of expressed mutual interest between job seekers and employers.
- According to the ANOFM National Employment Services by the end of December 2022, a total of 1,357 Ukrainians have registered to receive employment assistance services and 725 of those individuals registered in their system have earned and maintained an active formal employment contract.
- To support refugees' economic inclusion and to promote socio-economic inclusion, UNHCR's partner HEKS/EPER is providing Romanian language course for nearly 400 refugees. The Migrant Integration Center in Brasov started Romanian language courses for 100 Ukrainians sponsored by the People in Need through Community Foundation Brasov (Fundatia Comunitara Brasov).
- UNHCR and partners are working closely with refugees and host communities in Romania to sustain social cohesion and promote inclusion. On 19 December, UNHCR's partner Ateliere Fara Frontiere (AFF) organized a social event in Bucharest that brought together more than 150 refugees and people from the host community. The event provided a platform for the families to learn from each other about Romania and exchange information on various services. In addition to providing livelihoods counselling to more than 500 refugees, AFF is supporting the refugees from Ukraine, including single mothers, with vocational training and employment opportunities to promote self-reliance.
- IOM in cooperation with its Implementing Partners continued to provide information and counselling to both Ukrainians and third-country nationals (TCNs) and the organization of socio-relational activities meant to support the social and economic inclusion into the host communities. A total number of 726 persons were counselled and attended the activities organized across Romania.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The need to expand and improve upon community engagement activities, coaching, counselling and life planning strategies among refugees from Ukraine has been an ongoing revelation.
- Significant gaps to promote socio-economic inclusion remain including an adequate availability of affordable childcare services, significant enrolment into formal education systems among (and preparedness of these systems for) refugee children from Ukraine, access to social protection financial resources among beneficiaries of temporary protection and the availability of standardized Romanian language courses which teach Romanian language as a second language at-scale.
- While great progress is being made to overcome the barriers to refugees' livelihoods and economic inclusion, much more work is necessary to manage expectations among all stakeholders involved to accelerate progress and help facilitate pathways towards establishing economic self-reliance among the vast majority of those who are available to the labour market and who remain un-or informally employed.

Working in partnership

Refugee Coordination Structure in Romania



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LINKS

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