



Romania

January 2023

Since the start of the international armed conflict in Ukraine on 24 February 2022, more than 8 million people have fled their homes to seek safety, protection and assistance across Europe. The number of refugees from Ukraine recorded in Romania has increased in the past few months to 108,663 persons due to recent attacks on energy infrastructure and the deterioration of weather conditions.

Refugees in Romania 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 of 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. The Romania chapter of the 2023 RRP will be launched in Bucharest in February.

The Refugee Coordination Structure in Romania was changed at the beginning of January to better serve refugees in the country. The Education sector is a working group now, Gender Based Violence and Sexual Reproductive Health sub working groups were added.

KEY FIGURES* (as of end January)

8 M

Refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe

2.7 M

Border crossing into Romania

108 K

Refugees from Ukraine remaining in Romania

110 K

Refugees who obtained temporary protection in Romania

60%

Of refugees who obtained temporary protection are women and girls

2022 REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN (RRP) FOR THE UKRAINE SITUATION**

USD 1.79 B

Overall financial requirements for 2022 RRP

72%

Funded for the overall 2022 RRP

USD 226.6 M

Financial requirements for the 2022 Romania response

88%

Funded for the 2022 Romania response

22

Appealing partners involved in the 2022 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. 2022 RRP funding levels are subject to change pending ongoing end-of-year verifications.

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

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

Since 24 February 2022, more than 8 million people have sought refuge from Ukraine across Europe. As of 29 January 2023, more than 2.7 million border crossings from Ukraine and Moldova into Romania have been recorded by GII, with some 108,044 people choosing to remain in the country. Around 110,901 Ukrainian (109,778) and Third Country Nationals (TCNs- 1,123) 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.

In coordination with partner NGOs and UN agencies implementing the 2022 Refugee Response Plan (RRP), the Inter-Agency Coordination Unit has developed interactive dashboards for each thematic sector and published them on the Romania Data Portal – providing an overview of progress against the regional/national indicators set in the RRP. The sector dashboards are published under the respective working group headers.

On 13 January, the Romanian Prime Minister H.E. Nicolae Ciucă and State Counsellor Ms. Madalina Turza released the 2022 Report on Romania's efforts and Achievements in the Field of Humanitarian Assistance to Refugees, Children's Rights and Other Vulnerable Groups. UNHCR Representative, on behalf of the humanitarian actors implementing the RRP, presented the results achieved by UN agencies and national and international NGOs.

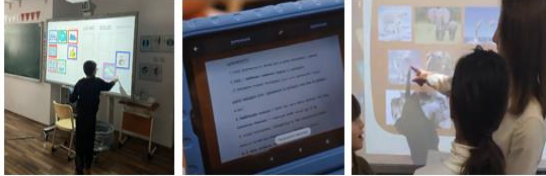
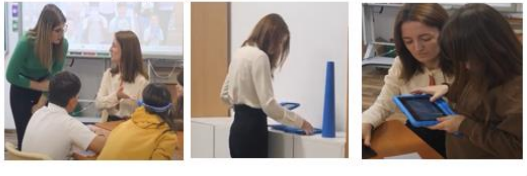


To enable refugees from Ukraine to have information about available services in their vicinity, the Inter-Agency initiated discussions with a service provider on the development of a service mapping tool in Romania which has already been implemented in Ukraine and Moldova. In addition, the Inter-Agency team organized two ActivityInfo training sessions for the RRP partners on 26 and 27 January and two sessions for UNHCR's implementing partners and non-RRP partners on 31 January 2023 with the aim of improving reports on the provision of services to refugees.

Spotlight on: Four simple adjustments to accelerate inclusion of Ukrainian pupils in the audient format

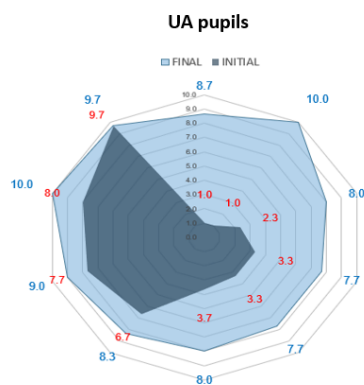
(Case study from Ienachita Vacarescu school in Bucharest, with European Commission and World Bank support.)

World Bank (WB), with support from the European Commission's DG REFORM, has been providing advisory support to the Department of Emergency Situations (DSU) and the Prime Minister's office in Romania through a project funded by the European Union via the Technical Support Instrument (TSI) on Accelerating the access of Ukrainian (UA) refugees to support services. Its key approach is to run experiments, which give space to service providers and beneficiaries (refugees) to co-create solutions leading to their better life outcomes (e.g., more people financially self-sufficient, in quality learning etc.). The experiments thus provide insights on how to operationalize or adjust the Government's National Plan of Measures for the Protection and Inclusion of Refugees (NP) to achieve better results as well as how to activate the public service providers to improve support services to also benefit the Romanian (RO) citizens. In addition, these experiments can feed into the creation of a structural framework for the long-term integration of Ukrainian children in the Romanian education system, which is also supported under this TSI project.

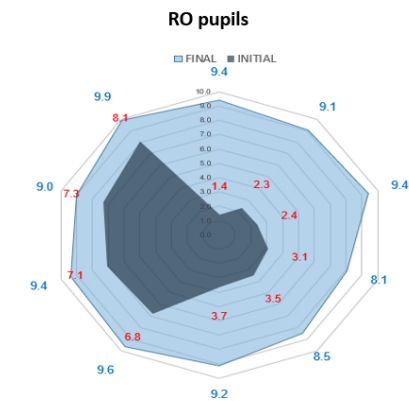
Temporary Protection provides the Ukrainian refugee children with the right to study at Romanian public schools. The NP plans intensive Romanian language training, hiring additional Ukrainian and Romanian educators and promotes exchange of good practices and materials among the schools with Ukrainian pupils. The WB pilot project with the Ienachita Vacarescu school in Bucharest focused on how to specifically operationalize this support in the classroom and help the Romanian teacher to provide pupils that typically do not speak Romanian with the support that sustains their school attendance, improves the quality of their learning and prepares them better to enter the Romanian public school system formally from the next school year. This pilot project focused on 4 adjustments implementable in a month to help Romanian teachers:

<p>1 Activate the existing ICT for translation and pedagogical purposes (illustration of learning matter, automatization of assessment etc.)</p> 	<p>2 Get the RO teacher and UA assistant to collaborate on lesson preparation and delivery (UA assistant ensuring preparation of learning aids including the digital ones, activation of routines with ICT, checking pupil understanding and progress)</p> 
<p>3 Vocabulary sheets with key words for the lesson: to maximize the language acquisition also outside of RO lessons and ensure pupils work actively with the new vocabulary</p> 	<p>4 Activate group work in the class (teacher facilitates it and lectures less) and peer learning among RO and UA pupils</p> 

Based on measuring the learning quality by the ICT, the Ukrainian pupils showed improvement in all indicators. The average improvement for the Romanian pupils was even higher. This means that while adjusting the plan and delivering the lessons inclusively takes some initial efforts, the Romanian pupils benefited even more. All pupils showed improvements in their digital skills, ability to communicate and collaborate, understanding of the learning matter and engagement in the lesson, i.e., the improvements of their 21st century skills that the Ministry of Education strives for through the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP).



Average improvement: from an average score of 4.6 to the score of 8.7 out of 10



Average improvement: from an average score of 4.5 to 9.1 out of 10

The WB team concluded the below 4 lessons:

1) it is not needed to wait till Ukrainian pupils speak fluent Romanian language to start engaging them in the lessons;

- 2) while the Ukrainian assistant meets the initial need of bridging the language gap, s/he needs to become more of an enabler and activator of independent learning of the Ukrainian pupils;
- 3) more group work in class allows for peer learning, learning to collaborate and building relations between the Ukrainian and Romanian pupils;
- 4) enabling conditions matter – more Ukrainian pupils at school make a business case to hire support and what makes it ultimately work is the school management interested in modernizing teaching practices.

The WB has initiated an archive of inclusive lesson plans developed by the Romanian and Ukrainian teachers that can serve as the basis for supporting more national public schools in getting prepared to teach inclusively and developed a Terms of Reference for the Ukrainian assistant with the practices to accelerate the independent learning of Ukrainian pupils. As these practices are in line with the planned NRRP reforms on digital transformation of schools and modernization of the teaching practices, the refugee response in its unprecedented context can serve as a trojan horse to initiating the reforms of the schooling system.

The WB is grateful to the IOM team for the collaboration and deploying the Ukrainian assistant at the school.

**PROTECTION****Achievements and Impact**

- A strong focus on the provision of information and awareness raising activities at the borders and in urban centres remains a core priority for protection actors as it ensures refugees are informed on the available services in the country and can make more well-informed decisions. In January, UNHCR and its Romanian partner, Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR) provided protection support, advice, referrals and information to over 4,420 refugees. Over 2,912 were assisted in person and another 1,508 remotely through helplines. IOM and its Implementing partners provided information to 227 Ukrainians, in addition to conducting individual assessments to identify vulnerabilities, including medical needs, elderly persons, children with specific needs. The Migrant Integration Centre in Brasov continued information provision and counselling offering 413 information and counselling on temporary protection, legal, education, medical system, work, accommodation, transport and other information for 157 persons and has provided Romanian language courses for 100 persons. In addition, the Centre and its mobile team, funded by the Danish Refugee Council, visited several communities in Predeal, Busteni, Vulcan, Sacele where the team provided information and counselling to 120 persons and supported refugees with Individual Protection Assistance (IPA) through direct services and referrals (registration to family doctors, appointments for specialist doctors, translations, accompany for translation, medical refunds, psychological referrals to our psychologists, other).
- On 25 January, CNRR, together with the Bucovina Institute, organized a community consultation with 18 members of the Ukrainian refugee community in the Suceava county to better understand the need of refugees residing in the area. Ukrainian refugees voiced their concerns about the difficulties faced to register with family doctors, access children vaccination programs and open bank accounts in Romania. They also shared their worries about the uncertainty of the 50/20 housing program and available cash assistance programs. On 26 January, CNRR and eLiberare held a community consultation with 11 Ukrainian persons of concern in Suceava, as well as representatives of NGOs and institutions in the county, with the aim to identify needs of the Ukrainian refugee population and to support future local advocacy initiatives. Counsellors identified the need for hot meals for Ukrainian children attending Romanian language courses and after-school activities, the need for winter clothing, food, medicine and legal counselling. On 31 January, CNRR held a community consultation with 17 Ukrainian PoCs in Iași, providing information regarding access to health services, social benefits (disability allowance), and access to the labour market.
- In an effort to improve the capacity of the Ukrainian refugees to defend their rights, whenever they are violated, CNRR is recalibrating its protection assistance and counselling to accommodate medium-term integration plans of the Ukrainian refugees to enhance its ability to support the enrolment of more Ukrainian children in the Romanian education system and strengthen the resiliency and self-sufficiency of Ukrainians living in Romania.
- Terre des hommes (Tdh) continued its protection activities in Bucharest, Brasov and Constanta [through its partnership with the Civic Resource Centre (CRC)], through adapted information, referrals, kits and voucher distribution, IPA, MHPSS and educational activities for both children and adults. Overall, Tdh's intervention supported 407 adults in the cities of Bucharest (212), Brasov (60) and Constanta (135).
- Based on previously identified needs, Tdh provided refugee adults in Bucharest with interventions that included group interventions MHPSS sessions, Romanian language courses, referrals, information, kits, vouchers, accompaniment to services, translation and Psychological First Aid. In Brasov, concentrated efforts were on individual MHPSS sessions for adults, managing individual protection assistance (IPA_

cases in addition to kits and voucher distribution. Likewise, in Constanta, CRC continued its work with similar support.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Challenges in accessing the Romanian healthcare system through the family doctor continues to be a large challenge for many refugees. Moreover, the uncertainty of the 50/20 housing programme, potential alternative solutions and the transition to these alternative options is presently a key concern for both refugees and protection partners given the likelihood of increased protection risks and needs for those accommodated through the programme.



CHILD PROTECTION (CP)

Achievements and Impact

- To provide refugee children with access to case management and referral services as part of Romania's child protection system, the National Authority for the Protection of Child's Rights and Adoption (ANPDCA) with support from UNICEF and Sera Foundation registered 18,782 refugee children in the Primero system in January.
- To develop much needed child protection referral pathways and strengthening the quality-of-service delivery in the medium term, the Child Protection Sub-Working Group (CPSWG) has facilitated ongoing coordination efforts between UNICEF's implementing partner, Alternativa Sociale, Salvati Copiii /Save the Children Romania and UNHCR to map services, including child protection services. The Government will contribute to developing a standard methodology for service mapping that the CPSWG as a group can roll out in priority counties complementing the ongoing broader service mapping lead by the Inter-Agency group.
- In the area of capacity building, the National College of Social Workers in Romania with UNICEF support organized a series of 5 trainings (3 days each) on crisis interventions for 135 social workers from local Departments for Social Assistance and County Departments for Social Assistance and Child Protection in Colibita, Sinaia, Sovata, Timisoara and Craiova.
- Direct service provision to children at risks remains crucial. Salvati Copiii/Save the Children Romania provided information and basic counselling for refugees including 6,683 children at border crossings points with Ukraine and Republic of Moldova. These children have also been assisted in counselling and integrated service centres in Bucharest, Galati, Iasi, Baia Mare, Tulcea, Suceava, Timis, and Mures where they received access to various services such as financial and material support, clarification of legal status, support for school enrolment, accessing health services, case management and referral to other services available. UNICEF implementing partner, Star of Hope provided urgent support needs to 1,223 Ukrainian refugees (842 adults and 381 children) at 3 border points (Siret, Sculeni, Husi/Albita) including support services such as psychological support and recreational activities for the children. Tdh continued its protection activities in Bucharest and Brasov, while in Constanta similar activities took place through its partnership with the Civic Resource Centre (CRC). This resulted in 1,291 children benefiting from critical child protection services in the three cities (including MHPSS-e.g., art and exercise therapy, adolescent empowerment activities, peer to peer support activities - educational, vouchers and kits distribution and individual protection assistance). World Vision assisted at least 1,800 children and their families to benefit from Child Protection activities including education and mental health, recreational and non-formal education to help improve the well-being and sense of security of beneficiaries. In Iasi and Constanta centres, in partnership with Providentia, 300 people including 22 children attended the mental

health and psychosocial support activities. Also, 123 people including 79 children received psychological support and participated in activities in day care centre at Happy Bubble Brancusi in Bucharest. In order to further use a set of learning and communication activities, 19 psychologists and social workers were trained in “I support my friend” curricula, which will be used in activities with Ukrainian and Romanian teenagers. The training was developed in partnership with Estuar Foundation. For now, more than 200 Ukrainian teens benefit from activities inspired by the program. At least 30 Ukrainian mothers attended the parenting workshops, implemented by child protection officers, with topics as discipline, communication, how to listen to your child. IOM continued to organize educational and socio-cultural activities for 136 children who participated to language courses, art and craft activities in January. The IOM medical team evaluated and referred 14 children for additional investigations.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Based on regular monitoring, the need for individual mental health sessions and speech therapy continues to emerge as an ongoing identified need for children.
- Through an online survey, the CPSWG identified gaps in how it functions as a group in meeting its objective as part of the national emergency response to prevent and respond to child protection violations during the ongoing crisis. Solutions were also identified, which will be incorporated into its 2023 Work plan. Overall, respondents (13 from international, national NGOs and UN agencies) feel that the group is aware of the group’s terms of reference, work plan and strategic priorities, and they feel they can influence the work of the group and the overall response while largely having a common vision for service delivery. Challenges still exist regarding the identification of common solutions and actions to address emerging child protection issues or obstacles and in avoiding duplication of service delivery. The ongoing service mapping and increased use of ActivityInfo platform and review of the 2023 work plan will help to address these gaps in 2023.



PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (PSEA)

Achievements and Impact

- UN and partners stepped up their efforts to raise awareness on PSEA due to its importance. AMURTEL carried out an awareness raising campaign targeting refugees from Ukraine by sending out UNHCR’s PSEA messages via Telegram which were viewed by 4,900 individuals. UNHCR displayed new informational material at the integrated service hub for refugees (RomExpo) in Bucharest, shared the materials with partners at the Blue Dots and with implementing partners to be displayed in their premises and distributed during their activities.
- PSEA systems continued to be strengthened. Plan International rolled out a new PSEA/Safeguarding self-assessment tool to partner organizations to help them be more precise in gap identification and ensure a safer response for beneficiaries. UNHCR developed PSEA capacity-strengthening plans with its partners following respective partners’ self-assessment and UNHCR’s review of partner capacity. These plans will be implemented by partners within a 6-month timeframe and will be monitored and supported by UNHCR to assist partners to meet minimum PSEA standards. The Safeguarding Hub for Eastern Europe has launched the [Safeguarding Matters for Eastern Europe](#), a contextualized five-part e-learning series aimed at non-safeguarding specialists in CSOs who want a flexible approach to learning, to learn key facts about safeguarding, gain knowledge and implement activities. Safeguarding specialists will also benefit from technical information, links to helpful resources and the ability to engage with the

safeguarding challenges facing CSOs. The first module is now available in English, and it will be launched in Romanian in February.

- Developing the capacity of all stakeholders involved in PSEA remains crucial. Therefore, CARE France –SERA Romania designed a Safeguarding & PSEA survey to map partners' needs and build their capacity which was launched in January. The survey was launched to all CARE France and SERA implementation partners in Romania (28 organizations) and Moldova (3 organizations), but also to all organizations under the FONPC umbrella. Data was collected from 30 organizations and a report was developed as part of the Safeguarding & PSHEA strategy. Additionally, a risk assessment and risk register for partners was developed which will be shared with the relevant organizations beginning of February. The IOM PSEA regional coordinator visited Romania to organize a set of trainings for staff and partners, and to prepare a set of materials aiming at raising awareness and building capacity for the local authorities and NGOs.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The Safeguarding Hub Eastern Europe conducted an [evidence review](#) on the safeguarding situation in Ukraine, Poland, Moldova and Romania in October – November 2022. The review looked at the safeguarding risk factors, scale of harm and abuse, and approaches and effectiveness of safeguarding in these countries. The review found minimal focus on how organizations are safeguarding refugees and others they meet and risks for staff and volunteers themselves. Instead, the focus was on safeguarding risks for refugees and advocacy for improvements.
- Plan International indicated the need for carrying out a legal mapping on the type of SEA incidents required by the Romanian national legislation to be reported to authorities.



TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (TIP)

Achievements and Impact

- Due to the importance of cooperating with the Government on trafficking issues, IOM alongside with the members of the ProTECT platform sent a set of recommendations to the Government, including Safeguarding Procedures for centres hosting refugees. Based on some reports received by Crisis Response Anti-Trafficking Task Force (CRATTF) in January, the SIMEV national database regarding victims of trafficking is not yet fully operational, as presumed victims who are not notified to the authorities do not appear in the system.
- IOM Romania approached NGO members of ProTECT regarding the potential victims of trafficking in their assistance, as part of a coordinated effort with the IOM Vienna Regional Office to support their efforts in establishing a database of known numbers of victims of trafficking from Ukraine in the neighbouring countries. Up to 25 January 2023 only 3 presumed victims have been identified, as they already receive assistance from an NGO.
- IOM continued to raise awareness on Counter Trafficking and Protection, through online campaigns and printed leaflets, reaching a total of 1,944 people.
- Sus Inima Programmes for Refugee Integration (SIPRI) has partnered with Centrul European pentru Educatie si Cercetare Juridica (ECLER), the County Council, and Asociatia pentru Libertate si Egalitate de Gen (A.L.E.G.) in organising the second, in county session, for early identification of potential causes of sexual violence and human trafficking among refugees. The participant lists currently include 49 refugees.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is still a need to facilitate access to information for both Ukrainians and TCNs on their status and rights including employment opportunities, education and medical services, as well as developing capacity building activities for stakeholders assisting vulnerable persons, with a focus on indicators of human trafficking, identification and referral of potential victims and traffickers



EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

- Since December 2022, enrolment of Ukrainian children in the national education system have increased by about 10 per cent due to various reasons including the situation of power shortage in Ukraine, which makes it difficult for children to follow classes offered through the Ukrainian online learning platform. In January 2023, 4,361 Ukrainian children officially enrolled (3,440 as audients) from pre-primary up to secondary levels, illustrating some moderate albeit growing demand for enrolment in Romanian schools. Plan International in partnership with Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) assisted more than 1,000 children in education hubs organised in state-owned schools provided with support from Local School Inspectorates and municipalities in Bucharest and Constanta. Close cooperation with School Inspectorates was also extended for registering children (mainly newly arrived) through education hubs. A community-led integration campaign for school enrolment was also conducted in Brasov with more than 400 children expressing willingness to enrol in potential education hubs offered by local authorities. JRS and Plan International also supported the conduction of a disability assessment in most education hubs in Constanta and Bucharest which provided Assistive devices and treatment to 5 children as a result.
- Support continues to be provided with a view to ensure that all Ukrainian refugee children can access quality education services, through diversified learning pathways 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 operating in a third language (e.g. English). RRP partners continue to promote access primarily to classroom-type education modalities that encourage face-to-face learning and personal interactions, as well as to language courses in Romanian, MHPSS and recreational activities to support their integration, and to facilitate access to online learning when necessary.
- Coordination in the education sector is key, both at national and decentralized levels, to extend the provision of educational services and ensure that refugee children can progressively transition to the Romanian education system. UNICEF pursues the coordination role in partnership with other sister agencies (IOM, World Bank, UNHCR), the Government of Romania, as well as NGOs supporting the delivery of educational services.
- 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. Terre des Hommes also opened a Resilience Innovation Facility in Bucharest. Overall, 328 individuals have benefited from educational interventions (136 in Bucharest, 117 in Constanta and 75 in Brasov). Sus Inima Programmes for Refugee Integration (SIPRI) extended educational services to 274 Ukrainian refugee children in Sibiu, from kindergarten up to high school.
- In January, UNICEF entered a new partnership with Lumina Lumii NGO to extend access to education services for refugee children in Sighisoara, thereby reinforcing education interventions already deployed in Bucharest, Constanta, Brasov, Iasi, Cluj-Napoca, Sibiu, Timisoara and Galati.

- The Romanian National Council for Refugees has been offering counselling on access to education, including support for school/kindergarten enrolment, and referring beneficiaries to other organizations for Romanian language courses or other educational activities in Bucharest, Galati, Constanta, Iasi and Suceava.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Romanian language courses for both children and adults are critical to ensure social integration and smooth transitioning to the national education system. Their provision hence needs to be extended to Ukrainian refugee children, parents and teachers in coordination with County School Inspectorates, while promoting enrolment in Romanian schools. Inclusion and retention of Ukrainian children in Romanian schools remains a challenge, mainly due to language barriers and limited enrolment capacities in some cities, as well as refugees' hesitancy to opt for school enrolment as they hope for a rapid return to Ukraine as soon as the security situation allows.
- Several learning hubs are still in need of school supplies including textbooks. Additional psychological support for teachers, children and parents is also needed.
- Alternative and complementary learning modalities privileging face-to-face learning over, or in addition to, online learning need to be further developed also for children who cannot be integrated into Romanian schools yet, in order to help them continue learning and manage transitions progressively.



HEALTH

Achievements and Impact

- WHO team finished the first stage of a rapid assessment of health needs and medical services among more than 300 people from Ukraine who received temporary protection status in Bucharest Integrated Service Centre (RomExpo) and Galati Bule Dot.
- In order to meet the shortages identified in the healthcare system and requested by the Department of Emergency Situations of the Ministry of Interior (DSU), WHO delivered medical equipment including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for health care workers, emergency reproductive health kits (UNFPA), automatic external defibrillators (AED), patient monitors, hospital stretchers and PPE for chemical protection.
- WHO is collaborating with the Ministry of Health in terms of information sharing and exchange of data regarding utilization of health services by the refugees from Ukraine. In January, a large amount of the respective data received covering last year.
- Healthcare services continued to be provided by WHO contracted specialists (i.e. mental health specialists, gynaecologist and family doctor) to 270 beneficiaries at the RomExpo. WHO and UNICEF established a set of services for refugees in Galati Blue such as psychological counselling, medical referrals, healthcare system and referral mechanisms introduction sessions. IOM continued to provide health assistance, including medical evaluations, prescriptions for medication, and referrals to specialists for further investigations. The IOM team provided general information and counselling in eight cities across Romania, including Bucharest, and facilitated the registration of Ukrainian refugees into the national health system and with family physicians and accompanied them to hospitals and medical service providers. In total, 246 persons were evaluated by the IOM medical team, 143 persons were referred to specialized doctors and 90 were supported with the registration for family physicians.

- Romanian National Alliance for Rare Diseases (RONARD) and Romanian Prader Willi Association through NoRo Centre, a pilot reference centre for rare diseases, provided healthcare services, support, referrals and information in eight counties benefiting 111 refugees with rare diseases to have access to diagnostics, treatment and care, as well as other cross border care coordination, reaching nine patients in January.
- As the national vaccination programme is destined only to girls aged 11-18 years now and the need to have the same programme for boys, the Independent Midwives Association in Bucharest are running a vaccination program for Ukrainian refugee boys living in Romania, aged 11-18 years to celebrate cervical cancer awareness month.
- Within the framework of a UNFPA project, the East European Institute for Reproductive Health (EEIRH) and local partners in Romania started providing services to women and girl refugees from Ukraine in the Women and Girls Safe Spaces (WGSS) in Baia Mare, Brasov, Bucharest and Targu-Mures. WGSS provided at least one type of service to 3,895 persons. Individual services such as information on SRH and GBV, health and psychosocial services and distribution of dignity kits was provided to 1,118 persons in addition to the distribution of 67 dignity kits. 277 persons participated in group activities. Information on WSS reached to 2,980 persons who expressed interest to use its service. Two trainings on SRH and GBV were organized and conducted in the WGSS sites. EEIRH continued providing support to the coordination of established working groups by the Ministry of Health. The National Agency for Equality of Opportunities between Women and Men of the WHO guidelines on clinical management of rape and intimate partner violence survivors was translated to Romanian.
- About 257 people participated in a piano concert for Orthodox Christmas with a Ukrainian musician organized by Sus Inima Programmes for Refugee Integration (SIPRI). held a piano concert for Orthodox. During this event general information regarding access to family doctors, access to psychological support, county wide medical assistance and information regarding how-to's for chronic patients were provided by the SIPRI staff.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Preliminary results of WHO rapid assessment showed a great need for refugees from Ukraine in improving access to information, which remains one of the most pressing issues, alongside with the language barrier.



MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

Achievements and Impact

- Demands for receiving MHPSS services are increasing and the MHPSS service delivery continues to provide service. Action Contre la Faim (ACF) and Parentis assisted 416 refugees from Ukraine through 411 MHPSS consultations and over 100 care practices sessions in Iasi. Parentis will launch a pilot project for the emergency one-off CASH assistance to MHPSS beneficiaries. ACF has developed new training modules for the capacity strengthening of local stakeholders, professionals and volunteers in Bucharest. These modules refer to guidelines for working with interpreters and to displaced parenting. At the same time, ACF has liaised with local authorities in border areas (Vicovu de Sus and Suceava) to provide capacity building on Psychological First Aid (PFA) and self-care to field responders. Save The Children conducted psychoeducation sessions, positive parenting workshops, PFA sessions for 189 children and 86 parents in the Save the Children Counselling centres in Bucharest, Iasi, Suceava, Galati, Tulcea, Timis, Mures and Baia Mare. A total of 250 children and youth benefited from TEAM Up session conducted in above locations and the transit areas (Gara de Nord in Bucharest and Egros in Iasi). Save

the Children local teams organized community mobilization activities (Mothers' Club, Christmas and New Year activities, sports activities, cooking classes, sports club) in nine counties. Save the Children team organizes MHPSS activities for 30 to 50 children every day at Radauti Camp and level 3 interventions have been conducted by Psychologists in five counties. Good Neighbours UK has been delivering PFA to 517 children crossing the Siret and Isaccea Borders, as well as in the Suceava and Galati city centres and distributed 1,724 MHPSS kit to children and their parents. IOM in close collaboration with its Implementing Partners (IPs) continued to provide mental health and psychosocial support to both Ukrainians and TCNs in several cities across Romania including 53 individual counselling sessions, ten group sessions, formal and non-formal activities as well as socio-relational 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 386 individual, both adults and children.

- To provide refugees from Ukraine with more access to MHPSS services, WHO continued to empower the network of Cultural Mediators in different locations around the country (Galati, Brasov, Cluj, Bucharest). Also, the Mures Hub Organization is developing projects to address mental health issues at the community level, delivering first and second level interventions in Targu Mures.
- With the aim to help the teachers, facilitators and therapists who work with children suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) to learn ways to better deal with the traumatic context of children, SusnimaPlays organised personal development and teacher training events with the involvement of international behavioural therapists and teacher trainers. 28 Ukrainian and Romanian teachers attended in the first session. There are currently eleven children with special needs enrolled in Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) educational facilities (5 in kindergarten, 2 in secondary and 4 in primary schools).

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- IOM identified limited capacity to provide specialized support to vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities or other medical conditions.



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

Achievements and Impact

- To help refugees cope with the winter conditions, UNHCR continued the distribution of core-relief items (CRIs). During January, in addition to handing over clothing, blankets, cooking sets for over 23,000 people at the Donation Centre of the Municipality located near the RomExpo hub in Bucharest, UNHCR also provided CRIs to CATTIA Centre in Brasov. The aid included quilts, bed linens, blankets, and hygiene materials supporting refugees currently living in and around Brasov. CNRR started distributing winter clothes and shoes for 239 refugee children in Iasi and the Iasi county. The donation was possible due to the support of The Sense of Art (an Italian NGO from Milano). IOM distributed 33,323 Non-Food Items (NFIs), and 252,275 hygiene items across Romania, reaching a total number of 8,485 beneficiaries. UNICEF distributed 3,000 sets of winter clothes for Children in Iasi, Galati, Isaccea, Husi, Constanta, Suceava, Siret & Radauti. IKEA and CNRR in partnership delivered seven new beds to the M!! accommodation centre in Galati to improve refugees' housing conditions.
- Habitat for Humanity Romania continued to provide accommodation in the thirty organization-rented apartments for the Ukrainian refugees in Bucharest and paid the utilities for all thirty apartments and supported three new families which joined the medium to long-term accommodation opportunities. Habitat for Humanity donated 200 trolleys to the refugees in the Edmond 1 and 2 and Bratianu Centres,

as well as to those benefiting from the 50/20 program. The trolleys are necessary for the safe storage of valuable goods and for the trips refugees make to and from Ukraine. Nevertheless, to facilitate online work and online education, Habitat for Humanity provided nine WIFI routers to families in need.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Considering the weather conditions becoming harsher and lack of financial support for many displaced parents with children, there is a strong need for winter clothes and footwear.
- The recent UNICEF mission to Isaccea highlights the need for container toilets at the border. DSU is to install some, but UNICEF can provide support if / when necessary. Similar issues were noted at Galati Blue Dot during the same mission which limited sanitation services, especially where wheelchair access is concerned.



CASH-BASED ASSISTANCE

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR continues to enrol for one-off winterization assistance for new arrivals and enrolled over 6,600 people until 30 January 2023. The distribution of cash for one-time winterization assistance for over 5,000 new arrivals is ongoing.
- Salvati Copiii / Save the Children Romania has been offering financial support to refugees through voucher distribution for the value of 200 Ron per person. This type of financial support has been offered as part of case management interventions and falls under cash for protection. The vouchers can be redeemed for feed and winter clothing. In January 1,020 vouchers have been distributed to 220 families assisted by Save the Children teams in the Counselling centres in Bucharest, Galati, Baia Mare, Targu Mures, Iasi and Timisoara. Save the Children also delivered 56,525 USD multipurpose cash assistance to 137 people from 71 households for three months.



LIVELIHOODS AND INCLUSION

Achievements and Impact

- Based on lessons learned in 2022 which indicated the strong need in developing teen community resources and activities along with women's support group in Constanta and the suffering of the mental health, Constanta for Ukraine Community Centre (CUCC) created a teen club focused on mental health and women's support group which benefited 349 individuals in January. Teenagers can get together with their peers to discuss challenges, views, beliefs and most importantly to have fun. As well, women, are provided help with processing emotions, maintaining mental health, developing support from peers and discussing real life difficulties & struggles to find solutions together. Caregivers play immense part when it comes to mental health of their children. In this regard, healthy parents can provide a healthy environment for the family. In January, the call centre operators in Constanta received 260 calls and provided information about employment, centre's activities, accommodation, medical assistance, legislative information and referral to public institutions and other NGOs for service delivery.

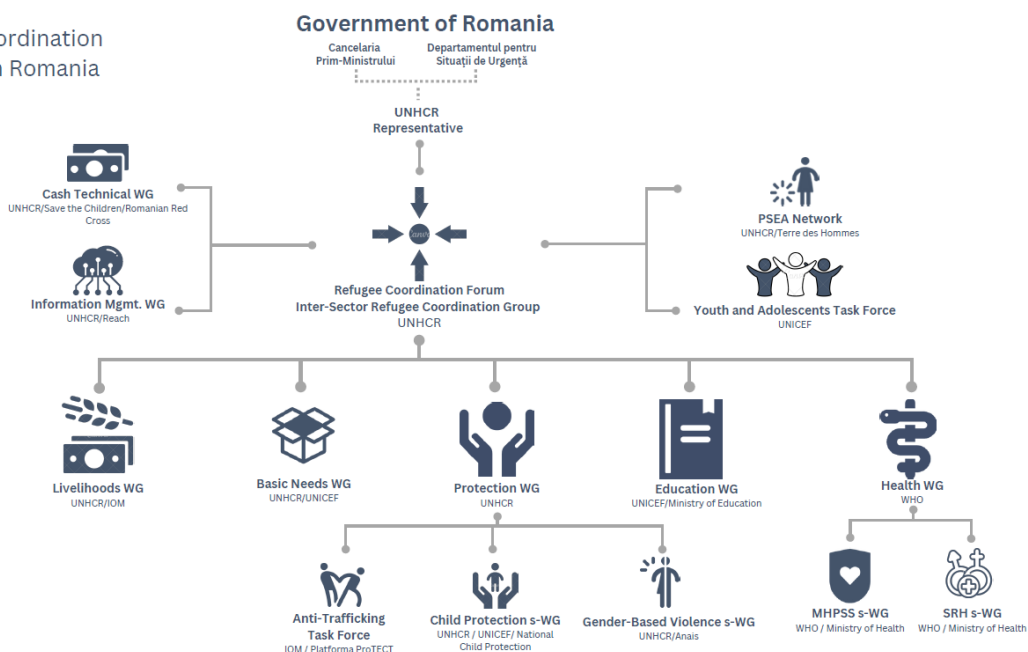
- Self-reliance is a key to promote social inclusion of refugees from Ukraine currently in Romania. For the month of January, the Jobs4Ukraine online platform, which reaches a global audience, has reported in Romania: 408 newly registered users, 44 new employers, 51 new job postings and 442 “interactions”, whereby 363 job applications were submitted by job seekers, 53 invitations to apply were sent out by employers and 26 mutual expressions of interest were shared between job seekers and employers. Off-line service offerings have expanded to include a growing Telegram community “Work & Life in Romania” which posts job offers to facilitate the job search process along with advice, CV writing tips, employment counselling and personal response to individually expressed needs. There is also email support and information campaigns, off-line counselling, linkages to language classes, and newly established workshops. This month a workshop was held at the Jobs4UKR office which hosted 8 individuals who played a game called “Cash Flow” which gamified skills, best practices and tips for establishing and maintaining financial stability. UNHCR and partners continued to support refugees in accessing employment and livelihoods opportunities through counselling, language courses as well as capacity building activities. UNHCR’s partner Ateliere Fara Frontiere (AFF) counselled 23 individuals at the employment assistance service desk at RomExpo.
- HIAS has agreed on a partnership with Alaturi de Voi (ADV) on social economy and entrepreneurship to be able to support its partners operating in Constanta, Braila, Galati and Bucharest. They will pilot a refugee focused entrepreneurship model all throughout 2023. It is expected that three social economy enterprises to be enlarged and strengthened to include refugees in the region.
- To contribute towards establishing a deeper sense of community which has proven successful in improving abilities, opportunities, dignity and interest in engaging employment assistance services among Livelihood and Inclusion working group partners, the Migrant Integration Centre Brasov with Active Citizens fund and its intercultural mediator organized a local trip to Cantacuzino Castle in Busteni with the participation of 100 Ukrainians. Other local trips were organized on a weekly basis for smaller groups of Ukrainians together with the Romanian language professors and the intercultural mediators.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Based on the needs assessment conducted by Jobs4Ukraine among its Telegram channel users, there are interest for future workshops in resume writing, receiving information on how to open a company in Romania, how recruiters select candidates for IT positions and adaptive strategies for overcoming the traumatic experience of war.
- On 18 January, Groupe SOS consulting provided a final external review of project activities of AFF in Bucharest, Romania. Among the key findings contributing to improved livelihoods and economic inclusion were enhanced access to and harmonization of focal points for information and services, community engagement and the value of building a sense of community among refugees from Ukraine and the host communities in Romania and addressing the need to plan for the mid-term to overcome the obstacles which present themselves with the desire to return home asap.
- In a preliminary needs assessment, HIAS has identified needs for training with employers, community support that leads to employability (flexible childcare opportunities), professional training and language integrated educational paths. HIAS is also undertaking a labour market assessment in Constanta, Braila, Galati and Bucharest.

Working in partnership

Refugee Coordination
Structure in Romania



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LINKS

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