



Romania

February 2023

Since the escalation 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 months to 111,993 persons due to attacks on energy infrastructure and the deterioration of weather conditions.

The Romania chapter of the 2023 Refugee Response Plan (RRP) was launched on 24 February 2023 during an event to mark the first year of Romania's response to Ukraine refugee situation, presided by the Prime Minister of Romania, and with the participation of refugees, authorities, donors, and RRP partners. The Romania RRP is aligned with the Government National Plan of Measures (NPM) for the protection and inclusion of refugees from Ukraine.

Refugees in Romania are supported by the Government, civil society, private sector actors, international organizations and volunteers' hospitality and generosity.

UN agencies and NGOs support the national refugee response under the framework of the RRP.

KEY FIGURES* (as of 26 February)

8.1 M

Refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe

2.9 M

Border crossing into Romania directly from Ukraine or through the Republic of Moldova

111 K

Refugees from Ukraine remaining in Romania

118 K

Refugees who obtained temporary protection in Romania

60%

Of refugees who obtained temporary protection are women and girls

2023 REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN (RRP) FOR THE UKRAINE SITUATION**

USD 1.7 B

Overall regional financial requirements

USD 153.6 M

Financial requirements for the Romania response***

34

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 2023](#) for a breakdown of sectoral response priorities. ***See the [Romania Chapter of Ukraine Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan 2023](#).

Operational context

Since 24 February 2022, more than 8 million people from Ukraine have sought refuge across Europe. As of 26 February 2023, more than 2.9 million border crossings from Ukraine and Moldova into Romania have been recorded by border police, with some 111,993 people choosing to remain in the country. Around 118,855 Ukrainian (117,681) and Third Country Nationals (TCNs- 1,174) have obtained temporary protection, which enables access to healthcare, education, and the labour market. While most refugees are staying in large cities such as Bucharest, Constanta, and Brasov, many are in other counties and towns throughout the country.

On 15 February, UNHCR and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), launched the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Ukraine and the [2023 Regional Refugee Response Plan \(RRP\)](#) for countries hosting refugees from Ukraine in Geneva. On 24 February, during an event to mark one year of Romania's response to the Ukraine refugee situation presided by H.E. Mr. Nicolae Ciucă, the Prime Minister of Romania, the 2023 Romania RRP was launched in RomExpo – the Hub for Integrated Services in Bucharest. The 2023 RRP for Romania counts 34 partners (6 UN Agencies, 14 National NGOs and 14 International NGOs), requiring jointly US\$ 153,6 M for the refugee response in Romania. Over one hundred participants, including refugees, authorities, donors, and RRP partners, reflected on the refugee response over the past twelve months and commended the solidarity demonstrated by all actors and civil society organisations in the countries. In addition to RRP partners and high-level authorities, the Ambassadors of Sweden (Presidency of the EU Council), the United States of America, Japan and Ukraine delivered opening remarks and extended their support to refugees. The Ambassadors of Korea and the United Kingdom also shared remarks with the participants.

Also in other locations, the 24 February was commemorated. PATRIR held memorial events in Cluj and Sighisoara to mark one year of response to the Ukrainian refugee situation. The events sought to unite and bring hope for a better future to the Ukrainian community in the two cities.

On 13 February, the Federation of Child Protection NGOs (FONPC) held a launch event for a report on access to health care for Ukrainian refugees in Romania where the UNHCR Representative gave shared remarks on the health sector aspects of the 2022 and 2023 RRP.

Spotlight on: Habitat for Humanity Romania - the Edmond Centre - Shelter and Social Hub

The need for long-term shelter for refugees from Ukraine in Romania emerged as an important need while the conflict in Ukraine is continuing and the stay in Romania is getting more protracted. Habitat for Humanity Romania, in an immediate response to these shelter needs, rented out apartments for 30 families from Ukraine, covering the entire costs for rent and utilities.

Habitat for Humanity Romania was alerted that 70 refugees staying in the Ferdinand School Centre in Bucharest had to be relocated by the end of September 2022 due to inadequate housing conditions and unsuitable infrastructure for the winter months. Habitat for Humanity Romania, in partnership with the Sector 2 City Hall and UNICEF, transformed an unused office building into an accommodation centre and social hub for refugees - called "The Edmond Centre"- as a medium and long-term solution for the most vulnerable categories of refugees in the Bucharest's 2nd sector. The Edmond Centre was rehabilitated in record time relying heavily on partners and volunteers.

The Edmond Centre currently boasts over 2,000 square meters of rehabilitated energy and heat efficient spaces over three floors. The long-term accommodation capacity is for 100 people and about 20 people per night can be accommodated as transitional shelter. In addition to housing, the centre offers educational, medical, social integration, recreational and psychological services to meet the needs of refugees. These services are provided by specialized local authorities to ensure a holistic and integrated response. Each of the 27 rooms, the common spaces as well as the kitchens and showers, were furnished by Habitat for Humanity Romania using furniture and appliances the organization had in stock and donated by its partners UNICEF and CORE.

As of February 2023, the Edmond Centre accommodates 70 refugees – consisting of families with two to nine people, elderly with disabilities, or single people. In addition, the Centre accommodates an additional 30

refugees, allocated by the Bucharest Municipality Centre for Coordination and Management of the Intervention (CMBCCI), who is redirecting refugees from key transit points such as the North Railway Station, depending on their short to long-term needs and their vulnerabilities since December 2022. A total of 456 refugees, including 179 children, have benefited from educational, medical and psychological services provided at the Edmond Centre.

In the short to medium term, the Edmond Centre will continue accommodating refugees from Ukraine. In the long term, it will accommodate vulnerable families from Bucharest, contributing to strengthening of the shelter and housing system.

Habitat for Humanity is working closely with its partners, public authorities, and volunteers to deliver qualitative and safe accommodation for the refugees from Ukraine. Since the beginning of the Ukrainian Refugee situation, Habitat for Humanity Romania has provided transitional shelter to more than 2,700 people crossing through Romania.

Inside the Edmond Centre – after renovations



Inside the Edmond Centre – before renovations





PROTECTION SECTOR

Achievements and Impact

- As in the previous months, protection partners continued to focus on the provision of information and on awareness-raising activities at the borders, in urban centres and through helplines. In February, the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR) provided protection support, advice, referrals and information to over 4,875 Ukrainian and TCNs. CNRR and UNHCR Romania provided information and counselling remotely through their helplines to 408 and 872 refugees, respectively. IOM continued to provide information and counselling to Ukrainians and TCNs in eight Migrant Centres operational across Romania, including Bucharest. IOM provided information about available services to 495 Ukrainians. IOM also provided information to refugees fleeing Ukraine through their mobile teams during visits to collective sites.
- Protection partners, including CNRR and IOM, continued to support refugees in addressing the language barrier to facilitate access to services, including healthcare and education. CNRR facilitated the translation of documents and provided interpretation support to vulnerable refugees. In February, IOM, through its network of interpreters, provided translation information and support to approximately 4,500 refugees.
- To better understand the needs of refugees, CNRR held two community consultations with refugees in Iași – one focused on winter clothing for children and access to the education system and the second which was in collaboration with Federation of Nongovernmental Organizations for Social Services (FONSS) at the Humanitarian and Social Assistance Centre for Refugees CTR Nicolina. The third consultation was held in Hemeiuș, in collaboration with SOS Satul Copiilor. Topics discussed during these three meetings included education for children, state medical services, and Romanian language courses.
- Terre des Hommes (TdH) continued its protection activities in Bucharest, Brasov and Constanta, through its partnership with the Civic Resource Centre (CRC). Activities included information provision, referrals, kits and voucher distribution, Individual Protection Assistance (IPA), MHPSS and educational activities for both children and adults. Overall, 300 adults were supported either through direct services or referrals (including provision of food, scheduling doctors' appointment, support with legal documents, translation, transportation to services, etc) and 72 of them benefited from IPA. In addition, TdH provided refugee adults in Bucharest with group MHPSS sessions, Romanian language courses, translation, and Psychological First Aid (PFA). In Brasov, TdH focused on individual MHPSS sessions for adults and managing IPA cases. In Constanta, CRC continued its work on IPA cases, group MHPSS activities, and language courses. Over 300 children between ages 4 - 14 years attended activities in the centre including drawing sessions, dance classes, children's groups with psychologists, child friendly space sessions, a developmental club for younger children and club for teens, physical therapy, cheerleading and crafts making. The centre also hosted a photo master class for caregivers.
- The Migrant Integration Centre Brasov and its mobile team, funded by the Danish Refugee Council visited several communities outside of Brasov in Bran, Codlea, Cristian, Ghimbav, Rasnov, Teliu, Tohanul Nou, assisted 107 persons with information and counselling and supported refugees with referrals and IPA. The Centre continued providing Romanian language courses to 100 persons.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Partners continue to report challenges related to persons with specific needs including difficulties in reaching refugees living outside of residential institutions or centres, particularly to provide MHPSS

activities for adults. There is need for programmed activities targeting seniors and the elderly to promote inclusion.

- Access to the Romanian healthcare system through the family doctor continues to be difficult for refugees from Ukraine due to the lack of interpreters during the visits.
- The uncertainty surrounding the future of the 50/20 housing programme continues to be a concern for refugees and partner organisations, particularly due to the likelihood of increased protection risks caused by negative coping mechanisms. 40 per cent of calls received by CRC in February were related to housing and the future of 50/20 programme.



CHILD PROTECTION (CP)

Achievements and Impact

- As of 3 March, the General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPCs), the local child protection authorities, have registered 21,560 children in Primero system to provide children with access to case management and referral services as part of Romania's child protection system. The top five counties with more than 1,500 registered children are Bucharest, Constanța, Vaslui, Iași and Maramureș.
- Ensuring access to child protection services is important for partners. Government continued to provide critical services at Blue Dots and other service hubs at border points and in main cities. DGASPCs with UNICEF support continued to provide information and counselling to children and their families or legal guardians to identify Unaccompanied or Separated Children (UASC) and cases of violence against children and to refer them to specialized services, in Bucharest and 8 counties (Maramureș, Satu Mare, Suceava, Iași, Vaslui, Galati, Tulcea, Constanta).
- Salvati Copiii/Save the Children Romania provided information, conducted basic counselling, and distributed NFI which benefited 11,199 children and 5,998 adults in Bucharest, Galati, Iași, Baia Mare, Tulcea, Suceava, Timis, and Mures. Terre des Hommes (TdH) conducted 233 group and 36 individual MHPSS sessions which benefited 366 children in Bucharest, Constanta and Brasov. They also distributed 276 educational and winterization kits and 171 vouchers for food and clothes to children, supported 60 people with translation, and delivered language lessons to 74 children. TdH also provided direct service and referrals to 167 children through IPA process in Bucharest, Brasov and Constant.
- World Vision International delivered integrated protection services to over 2,300 children and their caregivers in Bucharest, Brasov, Constanta, Cluj, Iași, Suceava and Valcea to help improving the sense of security, well-being, and engagement of beneficiaries through educational support for online classes, non-formal education, child protection activities with embedded mental health and psychosocial support elements as well as recreational and inclusive programs.
- To strengthen capacity of the personnel working with and for Ukrainian displaced persons and to observe and prevent GBV and PSEA concerns, World Vision trained 128 of its staff members on Child Protection issues including national legislation and the recognition signs of abuse, neglect, trafficking, and exploitation; CPHA and Education in Emergencies

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There are insufficient MHPSS and afterschool activities targeting children living in independent apartments and limited availability of services for refugee children with disabilities. Furthermore, lack of Ukrainian-language MHPSS services and qualified Ukrainian-speaking specialized personnel remains a bottleneck for ensuring access to MHPSS for refugee children.

- There is a growing need to ensure the prevention of separation of Ukrainian child refugees from their caregivers (including legal guardians) through appropriate programmes (such as parenting) as the prospect of refugees staying in Romania for a longer period continues.



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

Achievements and Impact

- The East European Institute for Reproductive Health (EEIRH) developed the training materials for the upcoming courses on clinical management of rape and intimate partner violence survivors within the framework of the support provided to the National Agency for Equality of Opportunities between Women and Men.
- UNFPA, through its regional partner, the EEIRH and local partners in Romania have continued providing services to women and girls Ukrainian refugees in the Women and Girls Safe Spaces (WGSS) in Baia Mare, Brasov, Bucharest and Targu-Mures: individual psychological counselling, group psychological support, social support, gynaecological consultations, referral, distribution of dignity kits, information on PSEA, etc. Two trainings on SRH and GBV were organized and conducted in the WGSS sites. Other group activities organized for women Ukrainian refugees focused on reproductive health, violence against women, Empowerment through Self Defence, Police support in prevention and response to violence, socializing activities including Martisor celebration.
- Sensiblu Foundation, UNHCR partner, conducted 18 groups discussion in Bucharest and Suceava, attended by 161 refugee women and 18 teenagers. The risks relating to the increased presence in the online environment and online safety in general were discussed with teenagers. Additionally, Sensiblu Foundation jointly with UNCHR conducted a field visit to the Valcea county where relevant stakeholders and refugees residing there were informed about the available services available. As of February 2023, Sensiblu Foundation is providing GBV prevention and response services in Cluj, through a sub-partnership with ADIZMC.
- On 21, 23 and 24 February, UNHCR, facilitated three day-long training sessions on prevention of and response to gender-based violence in Bucharest and Cluj. Around thirty participants from 7 NGOs and several officials of the General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC) and national police attended the training. The training sessions focused on the basic concepts of GBV, how to handle case disclosures and make safe referrals to specialised actors.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In the field visit conducted jointly by UNHCR and Sensiblu Foundation to Valcea county, several increased vulnerabilities and risks have been identified and the two agencies will follow up to ensure that risks are mitigated and that the refugees are aware of the existing reporting mechanisms and available services.
- In the discussion with the adolescent refugees organized by Sensiblu Foundation, it has been highlighted that there is a need for increased awareness raising on the subject of online safety.



PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (PSEA)

Achievements and Impact

- Efforts to build capacity of aid workers to make the sector safer continued. The Safeguarding Hub Eastern Europe [has launched the 1st module in Romanian](#) of its five-part e-learning series that follows the story

of a small CSO in Eastern Europe which goes through the process of developing a safeguarding policy and dealing with its first reported incident of SEA. The e-learning is designed for individuals who are just starting their safeguarding journeys. Safeguarding Hub Eastern Europe has developed [a guiding note in Romanian on how to develop a code of conduct](#). This represents a summary of the CHS Alliance Code of Conduct Toolkit. It also [published in Romanian a note on how to set up and manage a Community-based Complaints Mechanism](#).

- World Vision trained 128 staff members on safeguarding including GBV and PSEA. Several experts were invited to speak on different topics such as identification of signs of child abuse, pertinent national legislation, and gender and disability inclusive practices. Oxfam trained 26 staff partners out of which 5 focal points in safeguarding practices. UNHCR began rolling out its training package for staff on PSEA and sexual harassment with the aim to build the capacity of all personnel and affiliate workers to protect persons of concern from SEA, develop the skills, knowledge, and behaviour to define, detect, prevent and response to SEA. Terre des Hommes trained 8 staff members in its child safeguarding policy.
- Partners have also focused on building and strengthening the PSEA and safeguarding system. Oxfam provided support to partners in reviewing their internal safeguarding policies, establishing a QR code and suggestion box for integrated safeguarding reporting mechanisms, and introducing them to aspects of safe programming. Oxfam also developed an organisational country level safeguarding strategy and action plan.
- Raising awareness on PSEA and safeguarding with refugees has remained high on the partners' agendas. UNHCR rolled out the safe campaign on its Telegram channel which currently has 9,021 subscribers. The campaign promoted key safety messaging, including on PSEA. On average, each post was viewed almost twelve thousand times.
- In an effort to communicate on the safeguarding needs and risks of people with disabilities refugees from Ukraine, Safeguarding Hub Eastern Europe [organised a regional event gathering more than 130 participants from Romania, Moldova, and Poland](#).
- Within the framework of a UNFPA project, the East European Institute for Reproductive Health (EEIRH) and local partners in Romania, provided information on PSEA prevention and reporting during individual information and counselling sessions, during the distribution of dignity kits, or as part of the group activities on GBV and SV to beneficiaries of the initiative Women and Girls Safe Space.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is an ongoing need for raising awareness on PSEA with refugees particularly on how to submit complaints in a safe manner.



TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (TIP)

Achievements and Impact

- To contribute to the Romanian Governments efforts to reduce the number of human trafficking cases by empowering practitioners to adapt a victim entered approach when assisting / interviewing victims of trafficking in persons, IOM with a team of consultants is developing and disseminating a Toolkit on victim-centric best practices investigations and prosecutions which will serve as a handbook for the training of judges and prosecutors nationwide.
- On 20 February, the IOM Protection Team held a counselling session for the Call Centre Ukraine operators (5 operators) in conjunction with their preparation on protection issues.
- Within the context of Ukrainian crisis and the refugees coming into Romania, eLiberare has developed the Kompass Model of Intervention to assess the risks of exploitation and human trafficking by following the journey of those displaced by the crisis, first at national level, in Romania, and then across all their

border crossings until their chosen destination. Due to the importance of this intervention, eLiberare held information/training sessions for 131 refugees from Ukraine in Bucharest, Suceava, Tulcea, Vaslui and Brasov. It also built the capacity of 62 persons who were in contact with refugees in Bucharest, Vaslui and Suceava including in social assistants and NGOs who implement the Kompass Model. In February, eLiberare also conducted trainings on the prevention of human trafficking for 30 university students and secondary-school students and 6 professors at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Sociology in Craiova, 190 secondary school pupils in rural area of Dolj county and 49 pupils in Suceava.

- eLiberare NGO with the support of UNICEF trained 30 front line social workers in the Blue Dot at Husi, including DGASPCs staff, on early detection and notification of cases of human trafficking among refugees. eLiberare also served 48 families in Bucharest, Braşov, Suceava and Tulcea to recognize the risks of exploitation, informing them about safe and accessible channels to report, offering prevention information and information on access to services and creating family safety plans. eLiberare also raised awareness about the 'lover boy' method of recruiting trafficking victims and other risks associated with among 14 Ukrainian teenage girls in Suceava county.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Some risks have been identified by partners: risk of online exploitation for sexual services; risks from using unfamiliar/non-authorized/unvetted transportation providers to move between locations; and increased risks for labour exploitation.



EDUCATION SECTOR

Achievements and Impact

- As of 27 January 2023, 4,409 Ukrainian children were officially enrolled in the national education system, with 79 per cent in the audience format: 1,525 at pre-primary level, 1,541 at primary level, and 1,343 at secondary level. Enrolments have hence continuously increased over the past few months 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.
- The governments of Ukraine and Romania have concluded a Memorandum of Understanding also, dated on 11 January 2023, ensuring mutual recognition of diplomas and education certificates delivered by institutions of higher education.
- 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.
- CNRR continued to offer counselling on access to education in Iaşi, Galati, Suceava, Constanta and Bucharest. This includes assisting beneficiaries with school/kindergarten enrolment procedure, the procedure of recognition and equivalence of studies/diplomas, referral to Romanian language courses

and other educational activities. Overall, 140 persons received counselling on access to education in February. In Constanta, the CNRR Integration team has sent to the County School Inspectorate 15 school enrolment requests that have been approved, leading to children being registered in Romanian school units. In Iași, CNRR has also helped two Ukrainians youths to enrol in local universities.

- Junior Achievement Romania has continued implementation of activities fostering entrepreneurial education skills acquirement on 3 interventional pillars, by JA staff in schools/hubs, by Ukrainian teachers in schools/hubs and by Romanian teachers working with Romanian students and Ukrainian audients in Romanian public schools. More than 180 young Ukrainian beneficiaries have been reached in February on the three pillars, while an additional 20 teachers (both Ukrainian and Romanian) have been trained on JA's curriculum. Educational materials and digital infrastructure support (in the form of laptops) have also been provided. The JA programs (covering personal development skills, entrepreneurship, career orientation and financial education topics) include educational materials which were provided in printed and digital format, both for individual students use and for in-class use with the teacher support (adapted to the learning needs of students) and cover the following: Our Community and Our City (for primary school); It's My Business, My Money Sense (for middle grade); Company Program, Economics for Success and Project Management module (for high school).
- Save the Children has continued supporting the operations of educational programs in Bucharest, Brasov, Constanta (Constanta and Navodari), Galati, Iasi, Mraramures (Baia Mare and Sighetul Marmăției), Tulcea and Suceava, in February, with 523 children (246 girls and 277 boys) overall taking part in activities. Children benefited from school support and pre-school training and participated in Romanian language lessons and recreational activities.
- Terre des Hommes (TdH) has also continued to facilitate the provision of Romanian and English classes in Bucharest and Brasov, distributed educational kits and started preparing activities in the Resilience Innovation Facility (RIF) in Bucharest (providing already language classes, individual and group MHPSS sessions and organizing Child Advisory Board meetings). TdH educators and team leaders from Bucharest and Constanta participated in three trainings for the RIFs – learning how to operate with 3D printers, vinyl cutters and other tools. Overall, 111 individuals have benefited from language classes (37 adults and 74 children) and 195 educational/recreational kits have been distributed this month.
- In February, UNICEF and IOM partnered with the British Council to expand further the delivery of the training programme on 'Teaching and Learning in Difficult Times'. A new cohort was trained in Constanta, benefiting 75 teachers, mainly Ukrainian and Romanian teachers. UNICEF also procured 180 laptops to support education activities in Iași in collaboration with the County School Inspectorate, 10 laptops to support operations in RomExpo, as well as textbooks and learning materials for 140 children, and stationeries and school bags for 2,000 children.
- To support online schooling of Ukrainian children and ensure connection with family members and friends, World Vision distributed 90 laptops in Bucharest to vulnerable school children from disadvantaged areas and to families with several school-age children, after delivering a Cyberbullying workshop.
- In February, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Romania provided educational activities to 1,680 Ukrainian children in 20 learning centres including 10 education hubs organized in public schools. Together with Plan International, one disability assessment with more than 1,000 children as well as one rapid need assessment were conducted in all education hubs. With World Vision and UNICEF support, hot meals were provided to more than 500 children in several learning centres in Bucharest, Constanta, and Galați. One enrolment campaign for more than 400 children was done in Brasov, with applications for extracurricular activities under the Ukrainian curriculum to be conducted in Education Hubs organized in public schools being submitted to the local school inspectorate. Enrolments continued also in other cities, with attendees noticing an increased turnover. Learning kits were also distributed to 700 children. JRS offered Romanian language classes in all its learning centres, with the majority of the teachers being Ukrainians who had previously taught such classes in Ukraine; Nine of these teachers benefited from a one-week training course on building skills in socio-emotional learning, multicultural learning and

inclusive education, and Romanian language teaching organized in Bucharest. A total of 136 educators and teachers provided educational activities to Ukrainian children and adults under JRS projects. Several meetings of the Ukrainian teachers' initiative in Romania were supported, with the goal of empowering the community by proposing recommendations to relevant stakeholders and voicing education needs from their perspective.

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 – as well as through online modalities - , while promoting enrolment in Romanian schools, in considering that inclusion and retention of Ukrainian children in Romanian schools remains a challenge, mainly due to language barriers, 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 SECTOR

Achievements and Impact

- At the request of the Romanian Government to strengthen the hospital level care, WHO procured and delivered defibrillators (106 pcs) and hospital stretchers (20 pcs) in value of over 400,000 euros.
- Within the framework of the support provided to the Ministry of Health, the draft order for the reorganization of the family planning and reproductive health services was developed. Information sharing and trainings for refugees remain crucial for RRP and UN implementing partners. WHO, jointly with UN agencies and Government, set up the national information call centre for refugees. WHO supported the development of Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs), scripted Q&A and coordination framework, and trained call centre operators. The promotion of call centre number is underway with UNICEF support. IOM hired 10 call centre operators among Ukrainian refugees to staff the call centre, while UNHCR is securing the call centre office.
- UN agencies in close cooperation with their implementing partners, continued to provide access to primary health care and specialised services. UNICEF provided access for 1,281 children and women, WHO did it for 225 persons at two health clinics in RomExpo and Galati Blue Dot with support of seven family doctors' clinic. 1,275 persons were supported by WHO family doctors, midwives, ob-gyn specialists and psychologists in 2023. CARE and SERA in cooperation with local sub-partners provided access to health services to 1,892 Ukrainians including direct provision of health services (consultation, medical check-ups, providing medicines, etc.) as well as intermediation of medical services, identification of Romanian family doctors, specialist doctors and medical clinics that provide consultation for Ukrainians. Profilaxis provides health services not only through face-to-face consultation but also using telemedicine system by establishing four mobile health units which transmit information in real time to a specialized doctor based at the office in Timisoara. Mobile teams are working in Bucharest, Iași, Baia Mare and Tulcea /Galati from November and provided help to 150 people per month.

- To further strengthen the national perinatal services, UNICEF supported the capacity building for 120 health frontliners on gender-based violence and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse in Brasov, Vaslui and Suceava counties. It also supported infant and young child feeding (IYFC) counselling to 255 primary caregivers of children 0-23 months. UNICEF and partners continued sharing online and offline guides on nutrition, immunization, and mental health at national level which benefited 6,588 parents and children.
- –The Independent Midwives Association call centre received 2,379 calls and messages for Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) care and conducted 682 SRH classes for teenagers. The association also enrolled 126 refugees from Ukraine to family doctors. WHO contraception awareness campaign among Ukrainian and Romanian youth is ongoing. The CRC call-centre in Constanta received over 500 calls weekly from people seeking information about what type of assistance is available, namely on access to medical services. CNRR helped 12 Ukrainians between 18 to 24 years old with access to health services.
- In order to be engaged with refugees, WHO interviewed Ukrainian refugees' families about their life experience in Romania and the interactions with the healthcare system. Interviewed persons were helped by the seven WHO cultural mediators in accessing MHPSS and medical assistance services. More in the published stories: [The crucial role of cultural mediators in Romania's Ukrainian refugee response \(who.int\)](#).
- The Migrant Integration Centre Brasov, supported by Solidar Suisse and Danish Refugee Council, continued to offer health referrals, direct assistance, information and counselling services. Out of the total of 477 requests, 212 requests were represented by medical assistance needs, such as healthcare appointments, translations and registration with family doctors. Financial support for healthcare services and medical products has been provided to families since March 2022.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is limited availability of health services for refugee children with disabilities and costs associated to these specialized services remains a barrier.
- Registration by the family doctors remains an access barrier caused by the unfamiliarity with the National Health Insurance House registration system and the increased administrative work for the family doctors.



MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

Achievements and Impact

- To better understand the mental health of refugees, ACF conducted an online survey in the region (Ukraine, Romania, Poland) to inquire about mental health issues and trends reported during the daily interventions of the implementing partners. For all countries, psychologists noticed physical symptoms such as headaches, decreased appetite, physical weakness, hypertension, and sleeping disorders, while emotional symptoms of distress mainly refer to excessive emotional reactivity, despair, fear, tearfulness, depression and anxiety. Jobs4ukr in partnership with IOM launched [a pilot Mental Health and Psychosocial Support \(MHPSS\) initiative](#) meant to match MHPSS professionals with organizations that offer these services to Ukrainians.
- To build the capacity of teachers to support their students who may be facing difficulties and distress, IOM in partnership with the British Council and UNICEF supported the teaching and learning in difficult times initiative which benefited 75 teachers in Constanta.
- Demands for receiving MHPSS services continues to increase. Salvati Copiii /Save the Children Romania reached out to 2,707 beneficiaries, both children and adults in the counselling, integrated services centres and the transit points in Bucharest, Iasi, Suceava, Galati, Tulcea, Timis, Mures, and Baia Mare through psychoeducation sessions, recreational activities, community mobilization sessions, individual and group

counselling conducted by psychologists, MHPSS workers, social workers trained on PFA and MHPSS. It also provided PFA and psychoeducation sessions to 208 parents and teachers to equip them with essential skills to support children facing distress and adversities. Parents' workshops were hosted in Iași and Suceava, focusing on topics including social-emotional learning and self-regulation mechanisms. Importantly, Salvati Copiii local teams successfully delivered several workshops every week in each location (Galati and Iași), addressing diverse interests and needs of parents and children such as Cooking Club, Experiments Club and photography workshops which provided an opportunity for children to learn new skill as well as to bond better with their parents and host community. Action Contre la Faim (ACF) and ParentIS supported 436 new cases of beneficiaries in Iași, conducting 495 PFA, 313 stress management and 51 care practices sessions. They also made 345 referrals to other services such as psychosocial support, mental health, and employability services. Mures Hub assisted 212 refugees through MHPSS activities including cooking workshops, movie nights, Romanian integrative program, English speaking club and concerts in Tirgu-Mures. IOM provided support including individual counselling for 29 adults and 38 children, 12 group sessions for 72 persons (40 adults, including elderly, and 32 children), non-formal activities and community engagement socio-relational activities (arts and craft, dance, music, etc) for 251 persons (adults and children). IOM and its Implementing Partners provided psychosocially informed counselling to 464 Ukrainians and supported their interaction with the local authorities and host community. The Migrant Integration Centre Brasov, with the support from Solidar Suisse, continued to offer MHPSS together with two Ukrainian psychologists and organized a total of 93 MHPSS sessions including 90 individual and 3 group sessions benefiting 79 individuals.

- To provide refugees from Ukraine with more access to MHPSS services especially those in isolated area or with misconception on mental health, WHO reached a total of 973 Ukrainian refugees with psychological counselling and psychological support in Cluj, Brasov, Galati and Bucharest through the Cultural Mediators. The involvement of Ukrainian and Russian-speaking mental health specialists led to an increase in access to services for refugees. Médecins du Monde (MdM-France) has started in January a MHPSS mobile team in Bucharest composed by two Psychosocial Counsellors (Ukrainian and Russian speakers) to offer support groups to the Ukrainian community in different partners locations. MdM also provides individual counselling to adults and teenagers.
- Delivering assistance and supporting families and displace children without their families is crucial for RRP partners. World Vision continued to do this through programmes that respond to their immediate needs and facilitate their integration in host communities. For February, at least 965 children were included in activities with a mental health component, designed to improve the well-being and sense of security of beneficiaries in Bucharest, Brasov, Constanta, Cluj and Iasi. For example, in Brasov 21 children attended in activities such as time management (10), first aid arts (11), art and crafts space workshops (92) and daily group activities (42). In Constanta, 281 children attended cyberbullying training, non-formal and formal educational activities, arts and crafts, themed parties and English lessons.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

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



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

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR distributed 19,718 Core Relief Items (CRI), including 10,080 winter clothes, 2,379 blankets and quilts, and 3,022 hygiene kits which benefited more than 15,000 refugees in Bucharest, Constanta, Sibiu, Vulcea, Timisoara and Oradea. To help refugees from Ukraine to cope with winter, CNRR with the

support of an Italian foundation provided complete winter outfits to 239 children including boots, gloves and hats. It also offered counselling to 57 Ukrainians (age 14 to 24) on how to receive essential support including cash assistance. At Radauti Transit Centre in Suceava county 180 refugees on average are provided with hot meals per day.

- IOM continued procuring and distributing shelter materials and Non-Food Items (NFIs), water and hygiene kits to refugees in the collective centres/shelters coordinated by the Department of Emergency Situations (DES), local authorities and other organizations recognized by the Government. Up to date, IOM distributed 47,739 NFIs and 260,132 hygiene items across Romania, reaching a total number of 9,188 beneficiaries.
- Under the Airbnb agreement, IOM provided 1,926 people with accommodation in several cities across Romania. In total, IOM has provided people fleeing the conflict in Ukraine with 17,281 safe nights of accommodation through Airbnb.
- Direct service provision to people at risk remains crucial. At the Sighetu Marmatiei border crossing, ASSOC NGO, the Blue Dot coordinator, with UNICEF support provided food packages, water and hygiene kits, first aid and information to 507 refugees from Ukraine including 157 children. In Iași, CNRR continued the distribution of winter clothes for 239 children in the county.
- UNICEF reached 4,988 people with critical hygiene and WASH supplies and 2,366 accessed safe drinking water. IOM also distributed 63,052 bottles of water in the border areas and collective centres

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- During February, the Basic Needs working group shared the findings of several assessments and follow-up actions are still ongoing for the winterisation period. From 7 - 10 November Department for Emergency Situations (DSU) and UNHCR have undertaken an assessment mission to 12 of the 15 Transit Centres operational in Romania. The objective of the mission was to assess the winter preparedness of each transit centre. Following the assessment and discussions with DSU three of the 15 Transit Centres were prioritized, namely Siret, Radauti and Husi. Support is ongoing while flooring still needs to be completed in Radauti Transit Centre and the damaged DSU tent in Husi will also be replaced.



CASH-BASED ASSISTANCE

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR continues to enrol for one-off winterization assistance for new arrivals and enrolled over 11,404 people until 24 February 2023. The distribution of cash for one-time winterization assistance for over 10,800 new arrivals in ongoing with transfer value of 653 RON per person.
- Salvati Copiii / Save the Children Romania (SC) has been offering financial assistance to Ukrainian refugees through multipurpose voucher distribution with the value of 600 RON per person as a winterization support. This multipurpose winterization vouchers can be redeemed for food and winter clothing from enlisted stores /shops supported with SC financial service provider. In February, 1,000 vouchers are distributed to 1,000 individuals by SC teams in the Counselling centres in Iași and Suceava.
- To better understand how refugees' priorities, Salvati Copiii conducted the Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) survey assessment for the cash grant assistance in December 2022 and found out that top 5 priorities areas how they spent money are: 1) Food: 95.1 per cent; 2) Clothes / footwear: 84.0 per cent; 3) Health expenses both for children and adults: 82.3 per cent; 4) Hygiene items: 65.4 per cent and 5) Education purpose: 24.8 per cent. Approximately 93.0 per cent asked for Unconditional Cash Grant Assistance (CGA). 96.9 per cent responded as being satisfied with the SC services of CGA and only 0.2 per cent informed about their dissatisfaction.

- The Migrant Integration Centre Brasov restarted the cash assistance program together with Banca Transilvania in Brasov which was designed in March 2022 with the aim of opening bank accounts for refugees from Ukraine for transferring their cash assistance. 800 households in Brasov (approximately 2,100 persons) benefitted from this program from March to June 2022. The program restarted in February 2023 and aims to support 2,500 persons (the donors are Solidar Suisse, AWO and ADH).
- JRS Romania in partnership with Plan International distributed vouchers to 2,400 Ukrainian children. Currently nine partners signed the Data Sharing Agreement with UNHCR for deduplication of cash assistance. The training and technical improvement of the deduplication tool for participant partners as well as the data UNHCR deduplication tool (RAIS) are ongoing.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There are more needs for cash assistance especially for vulnerable groups,



LIVELIHOODS AND INCLUSION

Achievements and Impact

- Self-reliance is crucial for promoting inclusion of refugees from Ukraine in Romania. Jobs4Ukraine during the month of February added 176 newly registered jobseekers to their online job-platform through project Vovajer bringing the total number of newly registered users to 584 since 1 January 2023 and reaching a total of 3,250 profiles on the system. In addition, 14 newly registered employers have enrolled to post jobs and search for candidates and 47 job matches were facilitated. Off-platform services continued through offline counselling services including CV building support, platform onboarding and both searching for and applying for jobs. The Telegram channel “Work & Life in Romania” has grown to 339 subscribers and in-person workshops continued with two group CV building events to not only develop CVs but also to share challenges and past experiences regarding employment and job search in Romania. There are now 141 followers on HEKS/EPER Telegram channel where they promote employment assistance services and job fairs events. Ateliere Fara Frontiere engaged 82 individuals at RomeExpo’s employment services table, conducted 32 counselling/evaluation interviews and out of 14 individuals (13 women and one man), six women earned employment. Furthermore, to enhance their resilience, the Migrant Integration Centre Brasov organizes regular socio-cultural/educational activities for Ukrainian refugees together with migrants and Romanian citizens.
- Overcoming the language barrier and learning about job search and career development for refugees from Ukraine are key to improve their self-reliance and integration in Romania. In February, 100 Ukrainians under temporary protection enrolled in Romanian language courses and 32 individuals participated in job/career coaching and counselling activities offered by HEKS/EPER who makes efforts to increase interest among the refugee community in the coaching and counselling services for employment. HEKS/EPER also shared meetings with PATRIR’s “Ukraine House”, the Emigration Office, the Granata Hotel refugee accommodation and support centre and with the International Justice Mission on anti-trafficking to promote career coaching and counselling services and develop a holistic service package for refugees from Ukraine. Around 30 individuals (predominantly women) are benefiting from Ateliere Fara Frontiere Romanian language courses. 88 people completed language classes offered through the “Constanta4Ukraine” project implemented by the Civic Resource Centre (CRC) in Constanta. CNRR provided counselling to 20 Ukrainian youth on access to work. Up to date, IOM teams working in Migration Information Centres (MICs) registered more than 7,953 Ukrainians, 947 persons (adults and children) are attending the Romanian and/or English language courses and more than 1,402 participated in socio-relation/wellbeing activities offered in MICs. To facilitate social inclusion and improve their

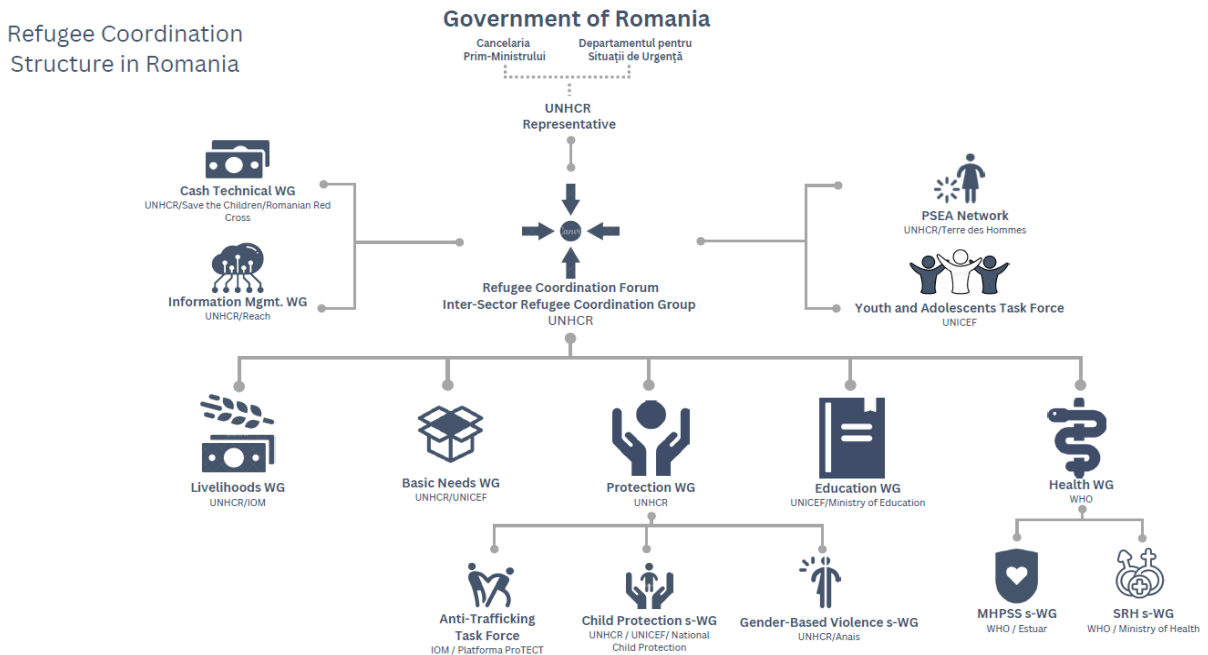
abilities, the Migrant Integration Centre in Brasov continued Romanian language courses for 100 persons. New classes will start in March as the Ukrainian refugees enrolled in the present classes request to continue their Romanian language learning.

- To promote the inclusion of refugees, the Migrant Integration Centre Brasov organized an advocacy seminar with all public institutions in Brasov (AJOFM, Brasov Prefecture, ITM, ISJ, IGI, AJPIS, DGASPC, University of Transilvania, DAS, Brasov City Hall). The seminar has been funded by Active Citizens Fund. Advocacy seminars with all local public institutions are organized twice per year by the Migrant Integration Centre Brasov together with CNRR partner.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Language barrier continues to be the main challenge in finding a job and integrating in the host society. Therefore, more language courses are needed to facilitate access to the labour market as well as more community events or meetings to facilitate the integration and social cohesion. Organizing informative sessions to raise awareness of refugees about the rights and obligations in the labour domain will help refugees in finding jobs.
- As a result of unaligned expectations between job seekers, service providers and employers, a gap in appetite and strain has been developing and growing among employers who were at first response eager and willing to hire refugees. With a significant amount of turnover of hired staff and some no-shows to confirmed interviews, it is clear that management of expectations among all stakeholders and more thorough vetting of skills, ability, availability, job-readiness and job coaching/counselling need to improve among employment assistance service providers’ and their engagement strategies.

Working in partnership



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LINKS

[Regional data portal – Romania Page – Ukraine Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan 2023 - Refugee Funding Tracker](#)