



Romania

July 2023

Since the escalation of the international armed conflict in Ukraine on 24 February 2022, more than 5.8 million people have fled their homes to seek safety, protection and assistance across Europe. Over 4 million people have crossed the border to Romania and were supported by the Government, civil society, private sector actors, international organizations and volunteer's hospitality and generosity.

UN agencies and NGOs, support the national response in coordination of humanitarian actors under the framework of the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) and through the Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) and sector working groups. The 2023 Romania RRP is aligned with the Government National Plan of Measures (NPM) for the protection and inclusion of refugees from Ukraine.

UNHCR is leading the Inter-Agency platform comprising 34 appealing partners implementing humanitarian activities for the refugees from Ukraine. A Refugee Coordination Forum meeting was convened in July to take mid-year stock on the implementation progress and the funding situation of the RRP 2023 in Romania.

KEY FIGURES* (as of 30 July)

5.8 M

Individual refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe

4.1 M

Border crossing into Romania

95 K

Refugees from Ukraine remaining in Romania

139 K

Refugees who obtained temporary protection in Romania

58%

Of refugees who obtained temporary protection are women and girls

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

USD 153.6 M

Financial requirements for the Romania response***

USD 57.8 M

Founding received 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 portal 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](#). ****See the [Refugee Response Financial Tracking \(RRFT\), Romania](#)

Operational context

Since 24 February 2022, more than 5.8 million people from Ukraine have sought refuge across Europe. As of 30 July 2023, more than 4.1 million border crossings from Ukraine and Moldova into Romania have been recorded by border police, with some 95,639 people choosing to remain in the country. Around 139,308 Ukrainian (137,986) and Third Country Nationals (1,322) have obtained temporary protection, which enables access to healthcare, education, and the labour market. The number of refugees from Ukraine present in Romania has been decreasing, from its peak of 113,009 in February, to 95,639 (as of 30 July).

On 3 July, UNHCR launched an awareness campaign to sustain refugee inclusion and social cohesion. The campaign is aiming to remind the public of the solidarity expressed in welcoming and supporting refugees from Ukraine and cultivate a sense of social cohesion, as refugees are advancing towards inclusion in Romania. The campaign has included digital engagement, outdoor/indoor advertisement (including ads in panels in six cities, radio ads and TV ads on multiple TV stations starting from mid-campaign and press coverage. It has been developed through consultation with a wide range of stakeholders and will run until mid-August 2023.

On 10 July, the Inter-Agency Coordination team launched the Services Advisor Platform, an online tool designed to provide support to refugees residing in Romania. Services Advisor is an innovative platform that offers an interactive map that is connecting refugees with essential humanitarian services in their vicinity. As of 31 July, 2,153 unique individuals used the platform and the number of services published on the platform increased to 593 services provided by 104 organizations (<https://romania.servicesadvisor.net>).

On 14 July, the Inter-Agency Coordination platform held a Refugee Coordination Forum meeting to take mid-year stock on the implementation progress and the funding situation of the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) 2023 in Romania. Nearly 60 participants of NGOs, humanitarian organizations, UN agencies and embassies attended the briefing in Bucharest. Dr. Raed Arafat, Secretary of State, Head of Department of Emergency Situations delivered opening remarks during the briefing. In 2023, 34 humanitarian actors (14 national NGOs, 14 international NGOs and 6 Agencies) appealed for US\$ 153.6M for activities for the refugees from Ukraine hosted in Romania. Over the past weeks, the Inter-Agency team conducted a Programme Criticality exercise to assess urgent sectorial needs to support refugees from Ukraine in Romania. Main financial gaps are affecting activities concerning protection (such as prevention of and response to gender-based violence, counter-trafficking etc), education and health. So far in 2023, the RRP in Romania is 37 per cent funded.



Speakers and participants at the RRP mid-year stock taking event in Bucharest on 14 July 2023.

Spotlight on: A Testament to Unity and Support to refugees, the Migrant Integration Center in Brasov Steps Up to Provide Aid

Since the onset of the refugee arrivals, local NGOs, private donors, and the Municipality of Brasov swiftly responded to the influx of refugees from Ukraine arriving in the city in a remarkable display of solidarity. In a coordinated effort, they transformed the existing Cattia Business Center into a secure haven for those seeking refuge from Ukraine's turmoil.

The Migrant Integration Center (MIC) is actively working in two locations in Brasov to assist refugees: its main office in the city centre and the dedicated Cattia refugee centre. While the latter provides exclusive services to Ukrainian refugees, the central office extends its support to third country nationals and beneficiaries of international protection as well.

In March 2022, MIC developed a cash assistance programme, supported by Banca Transilvania, which provided cash assistance to over 3,000 Ukrainians through bank transfers until July 2023. The range of services offered by MIC in response to the refugee crisis goes beyond financial aid. The centre offers vital information and counselling services, as well as direct assistance in navigating various systems such as healthcare, education,

and local employment opportunities. Furthermore, MIC provides translations for essential legal matters like dealing with the police or notaries. Support for accommodation, temporary protection, and psychosocial support are provided by the dedicated team at MIC, ensuring the well-being and integration of these displaced individuals and of the MIC's team.

Recognizing the importance of a holistic approach to integration, MIC has been organizing Romanian language courses and socio-cultural activities for adult refugees. Drawing on its experience dating back to 2011, these courses and socio-cultural activities have played a crucial role in empowering newcomers to Brasov and helping them feel at home in their new surroundings.



Romanian language course graduation, Brasov

Recognizing that not all refugees reside within the city, MIC has initiated a mobile team to reach out to those in various communities beyond Brasov. This mobile team bridged information gaps and provided essential assistance to families in need, ensuring that support is extended far and wide.

MIC also collaborates closely with local authorities, conducting advocacy sessions about refugees and migrants' integration within the city. Through reliable partnerships and successful referral mechanisms, MIC has fostered meaningful connections with local NGOs, strengthening the overall response to the refugee crisis. Since the beginning of this endeavour on the 1st of March 2022, MIC has successfully provided support to more than 4,500 individual refugees from Ukraine living in Brasov city and its environs.



Building social cohesion, multicultural picnic, Brasov



Group therapy at MIC Brasov with Ukrainian women



Protection

Achievements and Impact

- During July, protection partners continued to prioritize information provision and counselling activities to ensure newly arrived refugees are equipped with information about their rights and support available in Romania, recognizing the ongoing need to respond to refugees' inquiries with critical information such as temporary protection, accommodation assistance and the procedures to access the new government program. The Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR) provided information and counselling remotely through its helplines to 296 refugees and supported 5,373 refugees from Ukraine on protection and integration at the border crossing points and in major urban centres. UNHCR responded to nearly 1,400 inquiries from refugees through its hotline and Telegram and WhatsApp channels. SIPRI assisted and counselled 310 households from Sibiu (roughly 900 persons) and 102 households in neighbouring municipalities (roughly 320 persons) with general information. Salvati Copiii/ Save the Children (SC) maintained its presence at the border crossings points with Ukraine and Moldova to assist and counsel new arrivals. UNICEF gathered feedback from refugees through 706 in-person questionnaires in Bucharest, Sighetu Marmatiei, Galati, Iasi and Brasov. Among the respondents, 71 per cent were women primarily aged 25-59. Notably, 46.9 per cent expressed positive feedback regarding the information and services received.
- The Protection Sector also provided ongoing protection assistance through different activities and interventions around the country to address identified protection needs of refugees from Ukraine. The Migrant Integration Center (MIC) continued its protection monitoring, individual protection assistance and information dissemination and protection by presence in Brasov and surrounding locations. Over 100 refugees from Ukraine benefitted from information and counselling sessions and direct assistance on important issues such as temporary protection, legal, education, medical system, work, accommodation, transport, opening bank accounts, and the new housing program. SC provided Romanian language courses in its counselling hubs in eight different cities. While Terre des Hommes maintained its activities in Brasov, Bucharest and Constanta through adapted information, referrals, Individual Protection Assistance, MHPSS and educational activities for both children and adults, reaching 232 adults.
- In addition to direct protection interventions, protection partners continue engagement with refugees to learn about their priority needs for greater inclusion in Romania and the barriers to access services. The insights and perspectives received from refugees help inform areas for advocacy and the implementation of targeted assistance programs to effectively address those challenges. In Suceava and Bucharest, CNRR organized two community consultations for around 30 refugees to gather opinions about the issues with the enrolment in the new housing and integration support program, as well as to provide additional information improving refugees' self-sufficiency through employment and integration through education and vocational training. A similar activity was held by UNHCR in Constanta and Galati with over 20 refugees to find out more about the challenges that refugees encounter, particularly related to the new assistance program and psychosocial support needs. In Cluj, PATRIR held consultations with refugees from Ukraine on these topics and has been actively engaged in facilitating the process for refugees from Ukraine to apply to the new program. Also in Constanta, UNHCR held three focus group discussions with nearly 50 refugees with disabilities to understand their experiences and challenges to access different social services in Romania, including disability certification, which is known to be a lengthy and often difficult process.
- To strengthen the protection environment in Romania, UNHCR prioritized protection trainings for local authorities, partners and other protection actors in Baia Mare, Constanta, Galati and Suceava. More than 100 participants benefitted from the integrated protection trainings.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Protection partners continued to identify access challenges to the new government assistance program, with many refugees from Ukraine failing to have their applications approved as the conditions for education enrolment and disability status recognition were difficult to fulfil in a short period of time. Moreover, in some locations, the local authorities appeared to struggle to communicate the acceptance and rejection decisions within a reasonable timeframe, so refugees were unable to appeal the decision or provide additional supporting documentation. Partners will continue to monitor and intervene where possible as vulnerable refugees who are not included in the program are at heightened risk of household poverty and protection risks, such as exploitation, abuse and trafficking.
- There are also significant concerns with the limited housing options for refugees as many emergency and transit centres are no longer open or do not have available spaces and services, leading to difficulties to identify accommodation for refugees in need, including those who have newly arrived. Many actors are advocating for centres to be reopened or alternative solutions to be quickly identified to respond to the increasing needs.
- In July, UNICEF as part of its social listening on Facebook and Telegram observed enquires by refugees from Ukraine about accessing education, health, and protection services, alongside a growing number of enquiries to access humanitarian assistance (food and clothes); complaints about delays in receiving the governmental assistance; and negative attitudes and stereotypes expressed by the receiving community regarding refugees in Romania.
- UNICEF in-person questionnaires in Bucharest, Sighetu Marmației, Galați, Iași and Bravo revealed the following outstanding needs: Financial needs (9.3%) – lack of money, food stamps, products coupons, vouchers, free of charge services. Education (8.5%) – Romanian language classes. Health (5.5%) – medical services and medicines.
- Elderly and vulnerable refugees often face challenges in accessing assistance opportunities due to the difficulty of obtaining information, particularly with the prevalence of digitalized materials and online registration requirements for humanitarian aid.



Child Protection

Achievements and Impact

- The National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of the Child and Adoption (NAPCRA) reports that a total of 6,566 unaccompanied or separated children have been identified and registered in the national child protection system since the onset of the war in Ukraine, an increase of 374 children since the last month.
- UNHCR continues to strengthen the overall child protection response of partners and NGOs in Romania. This month, UNHCR organized four child protection trainings in Bucharest, Constanta, Galati and Suceava for 93 participants. Dedicated sessions covered topics such as child protection in contexts of forced displacement, Best Interests Procedures and child friendly communication and procedures to enhance the knowledge and skills of partners on how to ensure safety and well-being of refugee children. Alternative Sociale in partnership with UNICEF also trained 59 child protection actors on gender-based violence and violence against children resulting in increased capacity to prevent, identify, refer and assist such cases.
- During this month, child protection partners continued to provide child protection services, including case management and referrals to appropriate services. Ukrainian children and families received services in

Salvati Copiii/ Save the Children (SC) counselling centres in Bucharest, Tulcea, Galati, Iasi, Suceava, Baia Mare, Targu Mures and Timisoara, from teams of social workers, cultural mediators, psychologists, educational facilitators, MHPSS workers, and legal counsellors. In the same centres, a total of 928 children and 326 adults benefited from case management processes. SC also provided trainings to ensure increased capacity of 195 local child protection authority representatives in Suceava and Iasi on child protection in emergencies, psychological first aid and child safeguarding. The SC team held a photo exhibition titled "Innocent Perspectives - Ukraine through children's eyes" in Baia Mare. It showcased works by children attending the counselling centre, exploring themes of identity, still life, and their view of the world. The images captured the hopes, dreams, and resilience of these children, giving the community a glimpse into the perspective of refugee children.

- In July, World Vision's child protection programming reached over 2,000 children and their caregivers in several areas, including Bucharest, Brasov, Constanta, Cluj, Iasi, Suceava, and Valcea. The Happy Bubbles integrated protection services offered a range of activities to enhance beneficiaries' security, well-being, and engagement. These activities included remedial classes, non-formal education, child protection activities with mental health and psychosocial support, as well as recreational and inclusive events.
- In Bucharest, the World Vision's child-friendly space, Happy Bubbles provided learning and MHPSS services, with older refugee children participating in basketball and table tennis training, while younger ones prepared to support them in a future competition to promote fair play and supportiveness. In Cluj, Happy Bubbles focused on celebrating family to strengthen the sense of belonging and roots among beneficiaries. Additionally, in Brancusi Happy Bubble, 40 children received eye check-ups, and those with vision issues will receive free eyeglasses. Psychologists in Happy Bubbles received online training on disability awareness to better handle disruptive behaviours. World Vision also offered services for children with disabilities/autism, including arts programs, digital literacy lessons, vocational counselling, and ongoing parenting sessions across all locations to support caregivers in understanding and meeting children's needs.
- In July, Terre des hommes (Tdh) continued its work in Bucharest, Brasov, and Constanta, providing MHPSS sessions, educational activities, and Individual Protection Assistance (IPA) to benefit 646 children. The Tdh mobile teams operated in seven centres in Bucharest, and support to Resilience Innovation Facilities (RIFs) in Bucharest and Brasov allowed 55 children to explore 3D printing and other tools with MHPSS support. The Tdh team focused on implementing afterschool programs, RIFs activities, group MHPSS sessions, and language courses in Brasov and Constanta. The intervention resulted in 4 operational Child Friendly Spaces in Bucharest, 1 in Constanta, and 1 in Brasov, along with 136 group and 31 individual MHPSS sessions benefiting 480 children. Additionally, 102 individuals, comprising 86 children and 16 adults, benefited from language classes, 55 children participated in RIF (STEM) activities and 63 children received support through the IPA process in the mentioned cities.
- UNICEF and partners continued working in the field of child protection including through service provision in the sectors of education and MHPSS. As part of the ongoing efforts, UNICEF's partner Four Change Association provided social integration services to 51 children and families accommodated in the Tei Transit Centre in Bucharest, such as remedial education programs (Ukrainian language and literature, history; mathematics, science), Romanian language classes, and preschool activities. Four Change also provided the children with different types of MHPSS activities, such as drama classes and music therapy, aimed to develop self-discovery and resilience.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Partners continued to identify different needs and gaps in regard to child protection and access to services. Refugee children with disabilities are not able to access appropriate and specialised services due to limited availability. MHPSS services that are much needed continue to be difficult to access due to language barriers.
- Four Change Association reported that refugee families with at-risk children face difficulties accessing tailored social services. This particularly affects highly vulnerable refugees like Ukrainian Roma due to language barriers. The absence of Ukrainian or Russian-speaking staff in national social and child

protection services hampers effective communication with these populations. Consequently, protection services for refugee from Ukraine, especially the most vulnerable, are limited. In some cases, these challenges have even led to vulnerable refugees and at-risk children returning to Ukraine.



Gender-Based Violence

Achievements and Impact

- In Vâlcea county, the Sensiblu Foundation (SF) conducted 15 awareness groups, benefiting 275 individuals, and 37 support groups, supporting 604 beneficiaries. These sessions focused on preventing abuse in both work and private settings, emphasizing the mechanisms to deal with such issues. In Suceava, SF collaborated with CNRR to provide legal advice and prevention strategies on trafficking in persons, as well as establishing a network of Ukrainian-speaking doctors in the city.
- SF's support groups catered to 604 individuals, comprising 489 women, 24 teenagers, and 91 accompanying children. These groups served as a platform for socializing and discussing the challenges faced by refugees in Romania. One significant issue that emerged from these discussions was the relative isolation of children from the host society, as they continued to be enrolled in Ukrainian online schools. To address this, empowerment through self-defence classes was organized in Cluj and Suceava, attracting 66 participants and contributing to the development of community networks.
- UNICEF continued its partnership with ANAIS Association to deliver GBV prevention and GBV service to Ukrainian and host community women and adolescents – such as empowerment through self-defence classes and Bucharest walking tours with a feminist lens. In July, a total of 162 participants attended ANAIS GBV prevention events.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Targeted prevention efforts against GBV, sexual education, and trafficking in persons for adolescents at community structures should be actively pursued.
- The interactions with refugees have brought attention to their economic, social, and psychological needs. The majority of GBV incidents reported include Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and street harassment in public spaces, such as on the streets, in supermarkets, and public transportation.



Education

Achievements and Impact

- In June, the school year concluded with 24,806 refugee children from Ukraine (RCU) officially enrolled in the national education system. This increase in enrolment was largely due to the implementation of Government decision no. 368 on April 26, 2023. The decision introduced a condition that makes compulsory education (either in Romanian schools or in alternative face-to-face education programs registered with County School Inspectorates) a requirement for RCU and their families to receive humanitarian support and assistance from the Government of Romania. This initiative is known as the

"new 50/20 program." Additionally, the Ministry of Education has officially registered 61 education hubs, offering alternative learning opportunities, including continuity with the Ukrainian curriculum, to approximately 8,129 RCU.

- Coordination in the education sector remains critical, both at the national and decentralized levels, to extend the provision of educational services and ensure a smooth transition for refugee children into the Romanian education system. This is especially important as preparations for the new academic year are underway. UNICEF pursues the coordination role in partnership with other sister agencies (IOM, World Bank, UNHCR), the Government of Romania, as well as NGOs providing educational services. In this regard, efforts have primarily centered on coordinating educational activities during the summer and preparing for the upcoming academic year in September, in collaboration with national and decentralized education authorities.
- Support continues to be provided to ensure that all RCU 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 ('education hubs') facilitated by Ukrainian-speaking educators or operating in a third language (e.g. English), and facilitating increasingly access to Romanian language classes to prepare integration in Romanian schools. 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. In July, activities have particularly focused on remedial education, Romanian language courses and after-school type of interventions including life skills education and recreational activities.
- UNICEF extended its partnership with local NGOs to ensure uninterrupted education services during the summer break. The focus was on providing Romanian language training, remedial education, and recreational activities. For example, UNICEF collaborated with the County School Inspectorate (ISJ) and JRS to offer Romanian language courses in schools located in Constanta, Eforie Nord, Navodari, and other areas, including Bucharest. In Bucharest, UNICEF supported digital skills training interventions, such as 3-D modelling and printing, for youths at the National Youth Foundation's youth centre. Additionally, UNICEF promoted mine safety education sessions to prepare for repatriation and supplied 168 laptops for the installation of computer labs in schools and learning hubs, as requested by ISJs in Maramures and Giurgiu, facilitating access to online learning platforms as needed.
- In Sibiu, SUSINIMA has been organizing summer school activities, benefiting 487 children aged 6-18 who participated in integrative workshop like modules.
- Salvati Copiii/ Save the Children's educational programs in various locations (Bucharest, Bacău, Brasov, Constanta, Galati, Iasi, Maramures, Neamț, Tulcea, and Suceava) engaged 977 children in educational activities during July. This included 129 children in Romanian language courses, 779 children in after-school activities, and 69 children in extra-curricular activities.
- CNRR continues to offer counselling on access to education in Iasi, Galati, Suceava, Constanta and Bucharest. This includes assisting beneficiaries with school/kindergarten enrolment procedure; procedure of recognition and equivalence of studies/diplomas; translation of documentation; and referral to Romanian language courses and other educational activities.
- IOM has printed 5,025 Romanian language manuals and workbooks for adults and children attending language courses at IOM premises and throughout Romania. These materials are distributed based on requests from County School Inspectorates, NGOs, and partners. Additionally, the materials are available in electronic format on the website www.romaniaeacasa.ro. IOM continues to offer Romanian language courses for both children and adults in various cities across Romania, including Bucharest, Brasov, Cluj-Napoca, Iasi, Galati, and more. For those in remote areas or smaller cities, the courses can also be organized online. So far, 1,749 individuals have participated in these Romanian language courses.
- In July, World Vision's Education programming reached approximately 500 children through 4 Happy Bubbles and 4 Educational Centres, operated by local partners (FONSS, Carusel, JRS, and Cattia Centre) in various cities. The children participated in daily/weekly activities that offered educational support, non-formal education, STEM experiments, and recreational activities. They also received hot meals and snacks. These services create a safe and nurturing environment, promoting healthy

development according to each child's stage. Language lessons (Romanian and English) were provided in Happy Bubbles to help refugee children and their caregivers integrate into the local community. Digital lessons and ITC workshops aimed to develop 21st-century competencies, emphasizing modern technology, lifelong learning, and open education. In June and July, more than 1,000 certificates of attendance were issued, supporting Ukrainian families in accessing financial assistance from the Government.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In view of recent development and escalating number of enrolment requests in Romanian schools, there are increasing concerns on the actual capacity of the Romanian education system to absorb and meet the educational needs of all RCU and adults. While alternative and complementary learning modalities (e.g. education hubs) have been supported since the beginning of the emergency crisis to reduce the burden on schools and help children transition progressively to Romanian schools, RRP partners are now facing serious difficulties to secure funding for continuing their operations, hence facing the risk of having to discontinue the provision of such services from September 2023 onwards, unless additional resources can be mobilized urgently. Several partners have reduced or discontinued their educational activities already in July, due to lack of funding, including e.g., Caritas in Bucharest.
- During the summer holiday period, there is a need to ensure the continuing delivery of educational and recreational activities, alongside MHPSS, for RCU, despite school closure.
- Romanian language courses for both children and adults are critical to ensure social integration and smooth transitioning to the national education system. Their provision needs to be accelerated and sustained in coordination with County School Inspectorates – including through online modalities.
- To prepare for the upcoming academic year, new guidelines and methodology for integrating RCU in Romanian schools are required. UNICEF and RRP partners have already started discussions with the Ministry of Education on this matter.
- Ukrainian refugees face challenges in meeting the education requirements imposed by current legislation, particularly in cities or rural areas with limited or no educational hubs. Additionally, there is a high demand for preschool structures, especially creches, but the available capacities are insufficient to accommodate all children in need.
- Many Ukrainian youths are interested in higher education enrolment, but some universities require a preparatory year in Romanian language. However, these universities have limited capacities and cannot meet the growing demand currently.



Health and Nutrition

Achievements and Impact

- WHO organized a hybrid workshop titled "Pathways for Strengthening Immunization Coverage for Ukrainian Refugees," with 248 attendees, including family doctors and representatives from MoH, NIPH, NHH, and UN agencies in Bucharest. The workshop aimed to tackle crucial obstacles to refugee vaccination coverage, like disparities in routine vaccination schedules between countries and misinformation circulating among the refugee population. Participants found the workshop highly valuable, as it provided them with the knowledge and skills required to effectively engage with refugee vaccinations. Following the event, WHO is distributing 15,000 copies of the 'Vaccination Guides for Family Doctors' to medical professionals and facilities across Romania. This includes copies for County Public Health Directorates, family medicine clinics, the Order of Nurses, and selected universities. The

guides will provide up-to-date vaccination guidelines, benefiting both the Romanian population and the Ukrainian diaspora.

- On 4 July 2023, WHO organized an Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guideline training with the aim to emphasize the significance of IASC MHPSS guidelines, offer practical implementation examples, and share experiences of using the guidelines in the field and programming. The training was conducted in both English and Romanian languages for 30 MHPSS partners from Romania and Moldova.
- In Galati, the WHO team created two concise digital infographics promoting various services offered, including midwifery, interpreters, and county coordinators. One infographic highlights the services of the WHO-supported GP. These infographics will be shared on Ukrainian social media groups. Additionally, the team developed a digital flyer in multiple languages with information on accessing primary health services, including contact details for the WHO-supported family doctor and directions to the clinic. The flyer was shared on various social media platforms.
- WHO launched a Sexual Reproduction Health communications campaign targeting young people in Ukrainian, Romanian, and English. The campaign aims to address myths and misconceptions surrounding contraception and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). As part of this initiative, a special leaflet suitable for Pride events was created and distributed by the organizers.
- UNICEF is contributing to secure access to essential health services for refugees from Ukraine, especially mothers and children. UNICEF has supported the delivery of Primary Health Care (PHC) services in public health facilities and through implementing partners supporting the increased workload in areas hosting high numbers of refugees. Since the beginning of 2023, 5,777 children and mothers received PHC services, over 2,432 children and caregivers received Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling sessions through UNICEF supported mechanisms and 172 children have been immunized.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Based on WHO findings during its field mission to Cluj, Baia Mare, Tg Mures, Brasov and Sibiu:
 - Language barriers remain a significant issue for accessing health care, although counties with a high number of medical providers from Moldova, like Sibiu, have improved the situation due to their ability to speak Russian, Romanian, and sometimes Ukrainian.
 - The number of refugees registering with a family doctor has increased, with approximately 80 per cent registered in Cluj. However, challenges persist regarding Ukrainian refugees' access to information. Administrative difficulties faced by family doctors, including the complex registration process on the NHIH platform and the risk of penalization during biannual audits, have discouraged many from providing care. Limits on patient registration and daily consultations have further discouraged doctors from accepting refugees.
- RRP partners like Mures Hub and Patrir report that, delays in social payments for refugees is causing significant stress, depression, and anxiety among individuals who are facing financial obligations. Additionally, difficulties in finding jobs have emerged as a major source of stress, leading to increased requests for support with anxiety, sleep disturbances, and guidance on planning next steps. More assistance is crucially needed to support beneficiaries during this challenging phase.



Basic Needs

Achievements and Impact

- RRP partners are working closely with local authorities to ensure timely and appropriate support to the refugee population. UNHCR continues providing core-relief items. In Bucharest, on 11-12 July 2023, UNHCR distributed hygiene kits, quilts and synthetic pillows, bed linen, foam mattresses and body towels to 141 refugees living in the Technical University of Civil Engineering (UTCB) accommodation centre. UNHCR also completed a needs assessment for some 4,000 refugees from Ukraine residing in Constanta in preparation for an upcoming distribution of core relief items which will provide essential assistance to the most vulnerable refugees. In Galati, UNHCR and partners distributed 317 CRIs including bedding, hygiene kits, and clothing to 393 refugees living in Constanta, Galati, and Tulcea.
- World Vision has been the primary supplier of food and NFI (Non-Food Items) through social stores in RomeExpo, accounting for 90 per cent of the distributed volume since the start of the crisis.. In July, World Vision distributed family food and hygiene kits through various centres in Bucharest, Constanta, Iasi, Cluj, and Suceava. In RomExpo and Constanta, a total of 1,674 food kits were distributed, benefiting approximately 5,000 beneficiaries by the end of July. World Vision continuously adjusts the kits' contents based on beneficiary feedback to optimize the assistance provided.
- SUS INIMA Programme for Refugee Integration (SIPRI) distributed CRI to 106 households who have arrived in Romania benefiting 339 individuals.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Newly arrived (male) refugees who crossed the border through the Tisa River are in need of clothing support. Additionally, due to a lack of organizations providing food aid, support is needed in the border area to provide newly arrived refugees with food packages.
- Refugees have been informing RRP partners that the delayed disbursement of payments from the new government support program is having negative impacts on their well-being in Romania. Additionally, several accommodation centres in Bucharest and Galati are facing resource constraints as the funds provided by Government and/or UN agencies are reportedly not continuing.



Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion

Achievements and Impact

- HEKS EPER continues to provide various essential support services to refugee job seekers. This month, they provided career counselling for 17 refugees from Ukraine and organized a 5-day intensive chef's assistance vocational training which 20 individuals successfully completed. Since the beginning of the year, 158 individuals have completed two language course modules and 54 students are currently attending the courses.
- Ukrainians in Iasi responded to 40 inquiries through their help centre. The inquiries mainly sought information about the Romanian labour market, available support services, and immigration legislation, and came primarily from newly arrived refugees or individuals planning to leave Ukraine. Additionally, the Ukrainians in Iasi offered career counselling to four refugee job seekers and successfully facilitated five job placements this month.
- On 6 July, Ateliere Fara Frontiere (AFF) held a community event in Sinaia, attended by 46 refugees from Ukraine (including 13 children and 33 adults). The event aimed to facilitate discussions about living and seeking employment in Romania while providing an opportunity to make social connections and practice the Romanian language. These events have been successful in restoring refugees' sense of belonging and establishing supportive networks that promote social and economic inclusion. The beneficiaries

expressed their high satisfaction with the event, and many positive comments were shared on the AFF WhatsApp group.

- Fundația Națională pentru Tineret (FNT) has an ongoing project assisting both refugees from Ukraine and local Romanians youth (17-25 years old) with job placement or university registration. Since its launch two months ago, 51 Ukrainians and 5 Romanians have registered in the program. Out of those, three Ukrainians have already secured jobs and an action plan for continuous interaction with the beneficiaries is in place. To foster communication, a telegram group "job & study counselling" has been established for the beneficiaries. Further engagement efforts are planned.
- Due to the refugees' high demand for more information and guidance on the topic of entrepreneurship, PATRIR in partnership with HEKS EPER are planning to offer comprehensive business start-up trainings.
- SUS INIMA supported 28 refugees from Ukraine to register with the employment agency (AJOFM) in Sibiu, and assisted an additional 270 beneficiaries with various job readiness activities ranging from CV creation to copying papers, networking with job recruitment agencies, etc.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Ukrainians in Iasi pointed out that refugees aged 55-65 often encounter discrimination in the labour market. Additionally, there are very few part-time job opportunities for those unable to commit to full-time work, such as caregivers. Furthermore, there are very limited high-skilled jobs available, leading individuals with higher education to accept lower-skilled and physically demanding positions, resulting in significant frustration.

Cross-Cutting Priorities



Cash-Based Assistance

Achievements and Impact

- Following the conclusion of the government accommodation program (50/20 Program), 2,534 individuals (comprising 1,080 families) were provided with single-instance MPC aid in July. This assistance aimed to bolster their housing and essential requirements during the transitional phase. In entirety, UNHCR extended its support to 30,557 vulnerable Ukrainians over the course of the program.
- Concurrently, UNHCR started implementing a new cash for protection program. Since 3rd July, 4,333 vulnerable refugees (1,430 families) were identified and enrolled in the program. Eligible individuals will receive four monthly instalments of 630 RON each to address pressing needs like food, medicines, and hygiene. The programme employs the scorecard model, developed in Romania, based upon good practices from the Americas.
- IFRC assisted 13,977 vulnerable refugees with the amount of 568 RON each as part of the 50/20 CVA intervention programme.
- The Migrant Integration Center in Brasov has provided financial assistance to 344 households (907 individuals). The programme aims to support 2,545 persons.
- Salvati Copiii/ Save the Children offered financial support to a total of 2,157 individuals. This was accomplished through the distribution of 2,440 multifunctional vouchers, covering various sectors. Specifically, 278 vouchers worth 450 RON each were distributed to 250 children for educational purposes. Additionally, 52 vouchers worth 150 RON each were provided to 52 individuals for medicine, and 2,043 vouchers worth 200 RON each were distributed to 1,788 individuals to meet their basic needs and 67 vouchers worth 250 RON each were distributed to 67 children for educational purposes.



Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

Achievements and Impact

- Efforts to build capacity of aid workers and authorities to make the refugee response safer continued. On 4 July, UNICEF organized a face-to-face information session on PSEA for 18 staff members of the General Direction for Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC) in Suceava. The information session was built based on the PSEA IASC training pack and according to the feedback provided, the session was rated as very useful and relevant by participants. On 4 July, the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Network organised a day-long Training of Trainers (ToT) on PSEA in Iasi with the participation of 27 staff from 9 NGOs and UNHCR.
- Partners have also focused on PSEA and safeguarding system building and strengthening. Safeguarding Hub Eastern Europe kicked-off its coaching service which aims to provide 1:1 technical expertise over the span of 5-6 working sessions to small and under-resourced CSOs on developing or consolidating their safeguarding organisational system. Creating a safeguarding policy, a code of conduct, a reporting mechanism, or a case management procedure to respond to SEA complaints or concerns are some of the actions that can be selected by the participants depending on their needs. As part of its [Inclusive Safeguarding Series](#) that looks at how gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity and other characteristics impact the safeguarding risks an individual may experience, the Hub also produced [Safeguarding Blind and Visually Impaired persons in the Ukraine Refugee Response](#) (ENG) , [Safeguarding People with Deafness and Hearing Loss in the Ukraine Refugee Response](#) (ENG), and [Safeguarding Older Persons in the Ukraine Refugee Response](#) (RO/RU/UE/ENG). A [movie club](#) was created with the aim of harnessing the power of storytelling to explore the root causes of abuse of power, gender inequality, and lack of consent.
- World Vision in partnership with VedemJust and ECPAT Norvegia developed 4 PSEA guides (for parents, children, teachers and journalists) in order to inform them on the risks of online abuse including sexual abuse. Until now, 10,000 guides have been distributed to Romanian parents, children and teachers with a translation into Ukrainian to follow. The PSEA guides can be accessed [here](#) (RO) and the PSEA guide for journalists in ENG only [here](#). World Vision Romania carried out weekly women empowerment panels, brunches and workshops to help beneficiaries share their experiences and coping mechanisms and prevent possible PSEA situations by learning about them before they escalate.
- Awareness raising with the affected population remained high on the agenda of the members of the PSEA Network. On 5 July, the PSEA Network had a meeting with relevant stakeholders in Iasi to introduce its activities and invite them to join the network. This was the first in-person meeting of the Network held outside of Bucharest and it was assessed positively. Additionally, on the same date the PSEA Network facilitated an awareness raising session at the Nicolina Center in Iasi to inform refugees about their individual rights and availability of services and reporting mechanism and conducted a focus group discussion with the participation of 11 refugees. On the 11 July, UNHCR conducted an awareness raising session on PSEA at a collective accommodation site in Bucharest benefiting 18 refugees residing in this site (15 female and 3 male). The participants were informed about individual rights, services available for victims of SEA and reporting mechanisms.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is need to disseminate PSEA information to children, parents and professionals, as these topics are considered taboo in both Romanian and Ukrainian societies, as well as within schools. both in the society (Romanian and Ukrainian) and within schools. It is crucial to raise awareness about the

significance of reporting PSEA incidents to enable appropriate intervention and response in line with the needs of beneficiaries.



Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

Achievements and Impact

- Salvati Copiii/ Save the Children Romania reached over 4,000 children and adults through MHPSS activities in the counselling centres and transit points across Bucharest, Galati, Iasi, Suceava, Baia Mare, Timisoara, Mures, Brasov and Tulcea. Summer camps were organized for Ukrainian and Romanian children from Baia Mare, Bucuresti, Galati, Tulcea and Constanta, targeting over 200 children in total. In Constanta County, 30 teachers attended the Team-Up's Training of Facilitators and were trained in Psychological First Aid. In Iasi and Bucharest, the team facilitated psychosocial activities including group games, social outings and arts and crafts sessions for children, adolescents, and adults. At a national level, Team-Up activities reached over 300 children aged 6-17.
- PATRIR's accomplishments in the mental health sector include conducting 35 individual therapy sessions and facilitating ongoing group psychotherapy for 12 beneficiaries. They also conducted a training session on coping with stress for Ukrainian beneficiaries and hold weekly support group therapy sessions every Wednesday at the Ukrainian Hub in Cluj, specifically addressing the needs of the Ukrainian community.
- SUS INIMA has partnered with NGOs ECLER, eLiberare & ALEG to deliver MHPSS, PSEA and GBV training to health service providers and Ukrainian beneficiaries. In July, ALEG delivered an MHPSS workshop for 22 adults, ECLER provided PSEA training for 32 public authority stakeholders and eLiberare provided individual psychological therapies or group therapies for 169 beneficiaries.
- IOM and its implementing partners continue activities to improve the psychological and well-being of refugees in need of support. This included individual and group counselling, non-formal educational activities and other socio-relational activities designed in accordance with the identified needs. In July, 52 adults and children received 62 individual sessions, 78 adults and children participated in 13 group sessions and 670 adults and children took part in 57 psychosocial activities.
- Terre des hommes continued supporting refugee mental health in three operational locations in Bucharest, Brasov, and Constanta. 136 group and 31 individual MHPSS sessions were organized. 589 individuals benefitted from the sessions, among them 480 children.
- Ukraine's First Lady initiated a survey on MHPSS (Mental Health and Psychosocial Support) through U-Report Europe. This survey allows Ukrainian young people from anywhere in Europe, including Romania, to express their concerns.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Individual living in rural or remote areas face barriers in accessing MHPSS support.



Youth and Adolescents

Achievements and Impact

- In July, UNICEF observed local initiatives of working with/for refugee adolescents and youth from Ukraine. Interactive events were organized in Iasi, Suceava, Baia Mare and Sighetu Marmatiei for promoting the UNICEF participation platform U-Report Europe and the Youth and Adolescents Task Force Telegram channel @amongteensRo dedicated to them. The events reached 80 participants and 17 young individuals actively contributed to these activities. In Suceava, a variant of rugby-tag game showcased the impact of sports for development as well as social inclusion and addressed challenges in engaging adolescents in non-formal activities without familiar facilitators or materials in Ukrainian.



Sports4Development demonstration in Suceava Sport High-School with Ukrainian and Romanian Adolescents led by UNICEF

- UNICEF gathered views from approximately 80 adolescent participants. Among 51 interviewed, the most common plan for the next year was to return home. Regarding intentions to attend Romanian schools, the majority answered "probably not." Making new friends was the most popular factor that helped adolescents feel better upon arriving in Romania.
- With UNICEF support, the Youth for Youth Foundation trained school medical staff in Bucharest and developed socio-emotional skill-building materials for Ukrainian adolescents.
- The Award (Duke of Edinburgh International Award Foundation) initiated piloting a new methodology for hubs: the Buddy Up events, centred on theatre games and communication skills, to create connections between Romanian and Ukrainian youth. Successful local partnerships with Decebal Highschool and JRS in Constanta facilitated the implementation of adolescent-friendly initiatives.
- The Romanian Angel Appeal continued promoting social cohesion through Erasmus Plus projects, including exchange initiatives, Romanian and English language classes, and ECDL classes.
- The National Youth Foundation launched multiple initiatives, including a training program for 22 youth workers from various youth centres on project writing. They also introduced two projects in Bucharest: "Redact for Change," offering a platform for young individuals to create a magazine and share their stories, and "Imagine Bucharest," which empowers Romanian and Ukrainian youth through the PhotoVoice method. Additionally, the Bucharest youth centre celebrated its one-year anniversary this month, where both Ukrainian and Romanian young people designed and participated in a special program to mark the occasion.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The lack of organizational focus on adolescents' distinct needs is a critical issue, as adolescents and young people often do not participate in activities designed for younger children or adults. More awareness raising, training, and collaboration with specialized organizations are needed to engage adolescents effectively. Ukrainian youth show a keen interest in participating in outdoor leisure activities, and combining face-to-face interaction with a mix of hard and soft skills is essential for their personal and professional development.

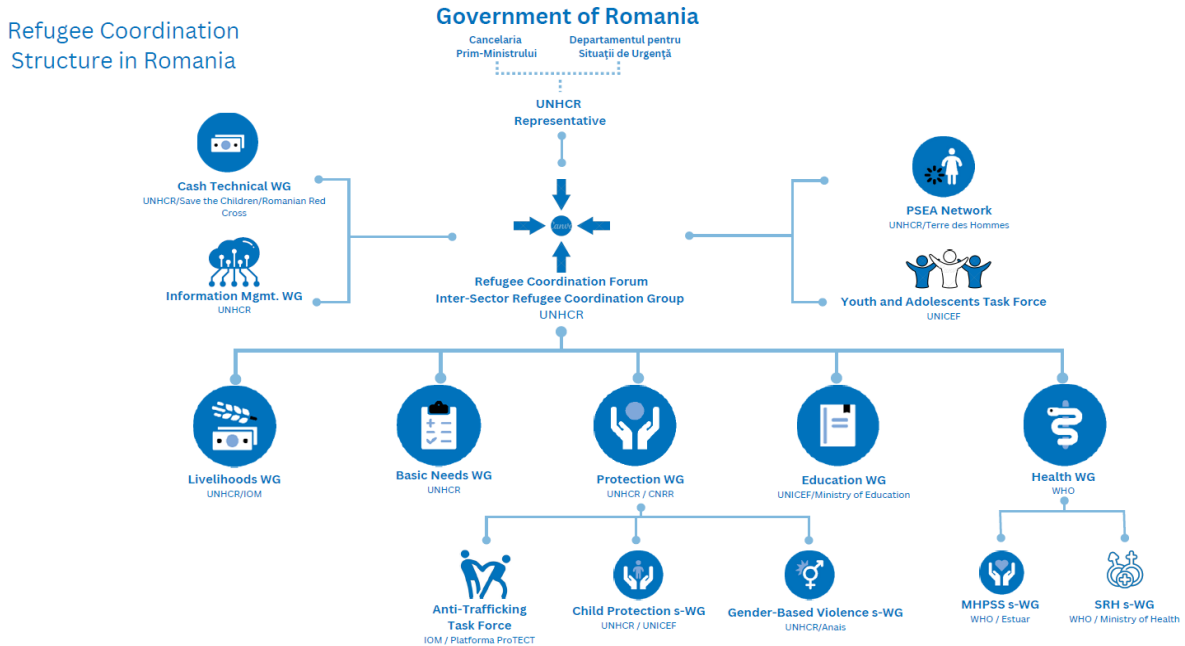


Trafficking in Persons

Achievements and Impact

- In July 2023, eLiberare organized various activities with refugees from Ukraine, including three information sessions on human trafficking attended by a total of 83 individuals in Bucharest (25 persons), Brasov (35 persons), and Piatra Neamt (23 persons). Moreover, a capacity building session on "Mainstreaming Anti-trafficking in Migration Contexts" was conducted, with 35 representatives from 24 different grassroots organizations working with Ukrainian refugees participating in the event.

Working in partnership



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LINKS

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