



# Romania

August 2024

Since the start of the international armed conflict in Ukraine which has forced more than 6 million people to flee their homes to seek safety, protection, and assistance across Europe, of which more than 173,000 have obtained temporary protection in Romania. The Government and partners including civil society, the private sector, volunteers, and international organisations have responded to the crisis with generosity and hospitality.

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 2024 Romania RRP is aligned with the Government National Plan of Measures (NPM) for the protection and socio-economic inclusion of refugees from Ukraine.

UNHCR leads the Inter-Agency platform comprising of 37 appealing partners implementing humanitarian activities for the refugees from Ukraine.

## KEY FIGURES\*

**6.08 M**

individual refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe.

**162,045**

obtained temporary protection in Romania (as of 30 June).

**70**

percent of refugees are women and children.

## ROMANIA REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN (RRP) FOR THE UKRAINE SITUATION\*\*

**USD 117 M**

Romania financial requirements

**USD 34,3 M**

Funding received against the Appeal (Q2)

**37**

Appealing Partners in the Romania response

\*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](#) for a breakdown of sectoral response priorities and requirements and the [Refugee Funding Tracker](#) for RRP funding information.

## Operational context

Since 24 February 2022, more than 6 million people from Ukraine have sought refuge across Europe. As of 30 June 2024, the Romanian General Inspectorate for Immigration (GII) reported that 162,045 Ukrainians and third country nationals obtained temporary protection in Romania, which provides access to healthcare, education, and the labour market.

On 14 August, the Inter-Agency Coordination Unit launched the newly published [Refugee Employment Data dashboard](#). The dashboard provides detailed information on employment trends among the Ukrainian refugee population in Romania based on the data from the Labour Inspectorate and National Employment Agency.

### RRP partner Independent Midwives Association – midwifery and medical services.

*Since the escalation of the war in Ukraine in February 2022, the Independent Midwives Association (AMI) has been providing healthcare, midwifery services, reproductive health services, contraception, vaccination, psychological counselling, legal services and support on health integration to refugees from Ukraine, especially women, adolescents, youth and vulnerable people. In total, since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, the Independent Midwives Association has been providing support and services to refugees and vulnerable people in over 200,000 cases, answering over 80,000 calls and call centre messages, and registering over 7,500 Ukrainian refugees with family doctors.*



*Hanna's story exemplifies the essential support provided by AMI. At just 18 years old, Hanna found herself in a difficult situation after an abusive relationship with a Romanian citizen. In July 2024, she gave birth to a baby girl. Throughout her pregnancy and beyond, AMI provided a wide range of services to support her.*

*During this time, AMI helped her with both midwifery services and medical services provided by a gynaecologist, analysis and other investigations. AMI's midwife was there for her by providing pre- and postnatal education, pregnancy, lactation and newborn monitoring, breastfeeding counselling, paediatric vaccination education, and advice and recommendations on giving birth in a government hospital.*

*Beyond healthcare, AMI's legal team helped Hanna navigate complex legal processes. They assisted her in obtaining civil documents for herself and her newborn, as Hanna had initially entered Romania as a minor using only her birth certificate and still does not have a Ukrainian passport. The legal department also took steps to report the abuse Hanna endured to the Romanian police and social services, ensuring she received the protection and support she needed.*

*Through stories like Hanna's, it becomes clear how civil society continues to play a critical role in providing healthcare, support, legal services, protection, and hope to those fleeing conflict and rebuilding their lives in new lands.*

On 28 August, the Inter-Agency Coordination Unit held a working session together with sector working group leads to discuss and validate preliminary data of the Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS) 2024 (formerly known as the Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment). The discussion covered the sampling methodology of the survey, the demographics of respondents, and the findings by sector. Three RRP partners, namely the Romanian Centre for Comparative Migration Studies (CSCM), the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR), and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), were involved in the data collection, surveying a total of 1,008 households. The final SEIS report will be published by the end of October 2024 to inform the development of the RRP 2025-2026.

### Back to school: refugee children meet decision makers

*“In school, you should learn, not just be an audience. We want more attention from teachers.”*

*“We are happy when we are accepted.”*  
- These are the thoughts of Ukrainian children starting of the new school year.

This summer, Save the Children hosted the “Young Voices of Ukraine - Children’s Participation Forum” a consultation event dedicated to refugee children from Ukraine. Over 270 children, aged 9 to 17, participated in consultations events across Bucharest, Baia Mare, Constanța, Galați, Iași, Năvodari, Suceava, Timișoara, and Tulcea. They discussed were informed about their rights, including the right to participate, identified main problems related to their education and wellbeing, and brainstormed for possible solutions. Locally they met with authorities to test their proposals, and to better understand the opportunities and limitations.



Refugee children from Ukraine meet with decision makers at Save the Children’s Counselling and Integrated Services Centre in Bucharest. Photo: Save the Children

39 of the children met at Save the Children’s Counselling and Integrated Services Centre in Bucharest to further discuss their recommendations with decision makers at national level: Ms. Ligia Deca - Minister of Education, H.E. Mr. Igor Prokopchuk - Ambassador of Ukraine to Romania, Mr. Pablo Zapata - UNHCR Representative in Romania, and Mr. Mihai Lupu - Director of Cabinet to the Secretary of State, Head of the Department for Emergency Situations. The discussion was moderated by Ms. Gabriela Alexandrescu – Executive President of Save the Children Romania. Representatives of other authorities held informal discussions with children outside the panels.

**Authorities committed to implementing the children’s proposals and transfer as much as possible into public policy, including language classes, extracurricular activities, and better prepared teachers.**

**At the start of the new school year, it is imperative to address the pressing needs highlighted by children to prevent children from facing the same challenges:**

- Real participation of audients in the educational act with monitoring of the school integration process.
- Training for teachers to work effectively with refugee children and providing orientation sessions.
- Romanian language courses should be flexible and accessible, ideally taught by bilingual teachers.
- Support teachers or cultural mediators should assist Ukrainian pupils.
- Adequate anti-bullying measures to enhance the safety of refugee children in the school year (installing cameras, support groups, ensuring constant supervision).

Through these initiatives, Save the Children aims to create a supportive and inclusive environment for all children.

## Save the Children calls on all partners to join in advocating for better integration and support for children in the upcoming school year. Together, we can make a difference.

Save the Children constantly creates context for authentic and meaningful participation of children. Save the Children believes in giving children the platform to voice their opinions, taking action, and being actively involved in decisions that impact their lives. Children's participation is a fundamental principle provided in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and is crucial for the healthy development of both the child and the community.



### Protection

#### Achievements and Impact

- In August, CNRR, IOM, Jobs4Ukraine, FONPC, FONSS, JRS, MuresHub, Terre des Hommes, UNHCR, UNICEF, and World Vision, continued efforts to provide technical support and feedback to the government of Romania for the normative acts following Emergency Ordinance No. 96/2024. The focus was placed on the development of communication and information materials, notably the new Department for Emergency Situations (DSU) [information service platform](#) for Ukrainian refugees who want to integrate in Romania.
- The Protection Working Group launched a [survey](#) to map access to social benefits available for the refugees from Ukraine granted temporary protection in Romania as stipulated in Emergency Ordinance No. 96/2024 “regarding the granting of humanitarian support and assistance by the Romanian state to foreign citizens or stateless persons in special situations, coming from the area of the armed conflict in Ukraine”. Data gathered through the survey will be used in a forthcoming dashboard intended for use by stakeholders to monitor access and identify potential challenges faced by holders of temporary protection and inform advocacy efforts.
- CNRR was actively involved in drafting recommendations to the authorities involved with drafting the Government Decision complementing the Emergency Ordinance no. 96/2024. They have advocated for the inclusion of older people of legal retirement age in the category of vulnerable groups who would be eligible for an additional three months of accommodation in the units to be approved by the DSU, as well as for the inclusion of a complaint mechanism for people who receive a rejection decision.
- The Protection Working Group held its monthly meeting on 27 August, during which a presentation of the “*Draft Order on the Procedure for Granting Social Services to Adult Persons with Disabilities from Ukraine*” was delivered by the Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations for Social Services (FONSS), who have also submitted comments to the Draft Order through the transparency mechanism. The Romanian Diversity Chamber of Commerce presented the [InKlusive app](#) designed to support and empower the LGBTQ+ community in Romania with a view enabling protection actors and those they assist to make active use of the app.
- Through the national hotline numbers, UNHCR offered information on its services to a total of 993 people. Save the Children provided protection services to 814 children and 1,125 adults, mainly from Ukraine. CNRR provided 337 counselling sessions through its call centre, and 241 in-person counselling sessions, 5 people were counselled on the new refugee status determination (RSD) procedure, and 1,361 people received counselling and informational sessions at the borders. Terre des Hommes provided 280 adults with individual mental health consultations or group support activities, and 172 adults were supported with tailored information, out of which 53 were supported through Terre des Hommes’ case management.
- The services provided by Save the Children included information and legal counselling, support on accommodation, basic needs products, back-to-school materials, access to family doctors, translation assistance and support for labour market integration. Save the Children organised two informal counselling sessions for adults in Arad, focusing on “Informative Consultation on the Process of Submitting Documents for Allowances” and “Analysis of Changes and Impact of the Emergency Ordinance No. 96/2024”. Moreover, 272 adults benefited from Romanian and English language classes.
- Terre des Hommes continued its work in Bucharest and Braşov, as well as in Constanţa together with its partner the Civic Resource Centre and in Baia Mare with City Makers. Their activities consisted of individual and group



MHPSS sessions, intercultural classes and life-skills development, adapted information, referral, a case management and individual protection assistance (IPA). In Braşov, Terre des Hommes focused on different aspects including Resilience Innovation Facilities (RIF) activities, group psychosocial support sessions, intercultural and life-skills development, case management and IPA.

- Together with NGO partners and refugee-led organizations across Romania, UNHCR conducted and finalised a participatory assessment exercise with forcibly displaced people from Ukraine. The assessment targeted adult women and men, youth, children, older persons, and persons with disabilities, as well as some members of the Roma community. The assessment contributed to updating insights on the needs, priorities, and concerns of refugees in Romania, and will inform UNHCR's planned interventions for 2025. 49 focus group discussions were conducted country-wide on key thematic areas such as social protection, access to services and information, documentation, gender-based violence (GBV) and child protection, social cohesion, integration and inclusion, among others. Further community engagement in planning exercises was sought through mass communication channels, giving a voice to those not included in the participatory assessment discussions.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The legal deadline for adopting the Government Decision establishing the conditions and mechanism of lump sum payments for the assistance programme related to Emergency Ordinance No. 96/2024 passed at the end of July with no revised deadline for its adoption announced. As a result, holders of temporary protection and accommodation centres are still unable to apply for lump sum payments to cover their accommodation costs.
- Access to accommodation represents one of the most pressing concerns for forcibly displaced persons from Ukraine. The expected adoption of the Government Decision that will establish the conditions, mechanism and lump sums for the assistance programme represents an important concern for all protection actors in terms of finding alternative solutions. Increasing numbers of collective centres are either closing or prolonging accommodation only for short periods of time. People who arrive now from Ukraine face the risk of not finding emergency accommodation while they search for rental housing or employment, as temporary shelters are shutting down or are overcrowded.
- While Braşov, Iaşi, and Suceava have begun accepting applications for state child allowance from Ukrainian refugees, in other counties it is still not possible due to inconsistent practices. The Inter-Agency Coordination Unit has developed a [survey](#) to map access to social benefits available to Ukrainian refugees granted temporary protection in Romania as stipulated in Emergency Ordinance 96/2024. The tool is intended to be used by partners to monitor effective access and identify potential challenges that temporary protection holders face and will inform advocacy efforts on a local and national level.



## Child Protection

### Achievements and Impact

- As of August, using the Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS) database, a child protection case management module of Primero, an open-source software platform for humanitarian and development protection programmes, the General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC) registered a total of 36,549 Ukrainian child refugees in Romania, including 8,421 unaccompanied and separated children. Between January 1, 2024, and July 31, 2024, 3,589 children were registered in the database.
- UNICEF, in partnership with NGO eLiberare, continued efforts to enhance the Romanian child protection system's response to human trafficking and sexual exploitation. This included developing a practical guide for the identification and referral of child trafficking cases, which incorporates the National Referral Mechanism and relevant legislation. Additionally, trainings are being conducted for regional and county authorities across seven counties to strengthen their capacity in addressing these issues.

- Save the Children, in partnership with Jobs for Ukraine and the DGASPC Sector 6 in Bucharest, supported 33 children (28 Ukrainian, 5 Romanian) aged 6-11 with daily educational and recreational activities, enhancing language skills and social cohesion at a daycare centre in Conacul Golescu. Additionally, 60 children (aged 2-11) received financial support, increasing access to early childhood education and extracurricular programs such as sports and music.
- Save the Children engaged 210 participants (120 children, 90 adults) to mark Ukraine National Day in Bucharest, Constanța, Galați, Iași, and Tulcea fostering cultural exchange through talent performances, workshops, and educational quizzes further strengthening community integration. Save the Children also held two workshops in Arad attended by 11 parents to share positive parenting strategies promoting empathy and respect with the aim of contributing to healthy emotional relationships between parents and children.
- During August, Terre des hommes in partnership with the Civic Resource Centre and City Makers, reached 199 children within the Resilience Innovation Facilities in Bucharest, Brașov, and Constanța, providing access to 3D printing, vinyl cutting, and other creative tools, integrated with Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services. In Brașov, the focus included intercultural and life skills activities, group MHPSS sessions, RIF creative activities, and individual support through case management and IPA. 81 children benefited from intercultural learning and life skills activities in the RIFs, centres, and schools.
- Terre des Hommes successfully reached 500 children providing individual and group MHPSS sessions, intercultural learning, and life skills education. Additionally, 199 children engaged in MHPSS activities within the RIFs, with 152 benefiting from digital skills training. They also provided 71 children with tailored referrals to essential services and supported 204 children with information on their rights and access to services in Romania. UNHCR together with its implementing partners and refugee-led organizations country-wide conducted a participatory assessment with forcibly displaced persons from Ukraine. The assessment aimed to hear the voices of refugees and better understand their concerns and priorities and inform programming. A total of 53 children (29 girls, 24 boys), aged 7-15, participated in focus group discussions, highlighting language barriers faced to access schools and experience integration effectively, instances of bullying, expressing mixed feelings about life in Romania.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Children request more time and space for socializing and engaging in recreational activities to balance school demands, relax, and build peer connections. There is also a strong preference for arts and crafts, outdoor sports, dance classes, and excursions. Children requested having more community spaces for interaction with their Romanian peers, as well as to promote more activities led by NGOs, incorporating especially sports and arts.
- Related to MHPSS, children expressed a need for guidance on managing personal boundaries, forming friendships, and handling conflict. They also seek support in understanding their identity and role in the new community, including how to offer and request help from peers.
- Ukrainian families, particularly those with neurodivergent children, face challenges securing kindergarten places due to limited spots.



### Gender-Based Violence

#### Achievements and Impact

- On 14 August, UNHCR and partner Sensiblu Foundation facilitated a training session on the safe disclosure of GBV incidents in Constanța attended by 13 focal points from various humanitarian organizations, including the Civic Resource Centre, CNRR, JRS, Life for Ukraine, RO-UA Novapolis, and World Vision.

- On 29 August, UNHCR conducted a GBV awareness session with 25 Roma refugees from Ukraine at the Roma Education Centre in Bucharest. The session, attended by both adolescents and adult refugees, focused on the prevention of GBV and demonstrated soft techniques of self-defence. The centre, managed by the Roma Education Fund (REF), provides essential educational and integration support for Roma refugees from Ukraine.
- In August, Sensiblu Foundation supported refugees from Ukraine through 34 group sessions attended by 450 people in Bucharest, Constanța, Râmnicu Vâlcea, and Suceava. These sessions focused on delivering psychosocial support and specialized information, significantly enhancing participants' emotional well-being and capacity to prevent risk situations. Teenagers actively participated in group discussions on personal and social issues, including relationships, violence, and being safe in the community, highlighting a focus on teen engagement in GBV group activities.
- The "Safety is Everyone's Right" campaign advanced awareness on violence prevention in Constanța in collaboration with UNHCR and Romanian Police. Sensiblu Foundation also provided 60 hours of individual counselling to 30 persons, including 14 new clients and 3 receiving GBV Case Management services.



## Education

### Achievements and Impact

- In August RRP partners' efforts focused on local and national coordination, on facilitating increased access to Romanian language courses, extracurricular activities, MHPSS and social cohesion activities. RRP partners focused technical support and advocacy efforts on national authorities, including support for the registration and transition of refugee children to Romanian schools in time for the next academic year.
- UNICEF engaged with national, county, and local authorities and NGOs to ensure continuity of education support services during the summer school vacation, including through partnership agreements to help prolong the operations of education hubs at least until the beginning of the next academic year and to advocate for the organization of additional Romanian language courses under the leadership of county school inspectorates to meet the growing demand. Educational supplies were distributed to several county school inspectorates as part of the back-to-school activities.
- UNICEF's partnership agreements with the British Council, HoltIS, JRS, PATRIR, Step-by-Step, Sus Inima, and Timiș County Youth Foundation (FITT) continued to help deliver complementary and alternative education services and supporting parents in cities hosting large refugee communities, including through hubs, benefiting several thousands of Ukrainian refugee children with continued support towards progressive integration in Romanian schools and a stronger focus on Romanian language courses. Furthermore, UNICEF supported the operations of 23 play and learning and parenting HUBs for children in early education, through the collaboration with the NGO Step-by-Step. Through UNICEF supported partnerships, in August 37 new children have been registered and benefited of the extracurricular activities implemented. 56 children benefited from enhanced parenting skills as a result of their parent's participation in parenting education activities organized in partnership with HoltIS.
- Through dedicated support extended to the Bucharest Municipal School Inspectorate and the education desk at the Romexpo refugee support hub, an additional 521 enrolment requests were registered for Bucharest in August. For the enrolment requests submitted during the summer period Bucharest Municipal School Inspectorate (ISMB) receives the applications, and the distribution decisions will be issued and communicated starting with the first week of September, when the new council meets to issue the decision for the new school year. This information is also displayed on the ISMB website, on the ["Next to Ukraine" page](#).
- In August, the ISMB held Romanian language courses for 80 Ukrainian children, as part of a summer school in partnership with JRS. In the new school year, the testing of children who have taken Romanian language courses until now and the start of new Romanian language groups in the schools announced by ISMB for each sector will

be supported, at the same time there will be a rigorous monitoring in schools regarding the attendance of Ukrainian children at class, both for students and audients.

- Throughout August, IOM together with ISMB and JRS held a summer school where 84 children aged 6 to 15 participated in intensive Romanian language courses. IOM continues to provide Romanian language courses for children and adults in several cities across Romania, including the capital city Bucharest, Braşov and Cluj-Napoca. To date, IOM printed 2,485 Romanian language manuals and workbooks for adults and children who are attending language courses within IOM premises and across Romania. The manuals are distributed based on requests from County School Inspectorates. Further, the materials are available in electronic format as well: [www.romaniaeacasa.ro](http://www.romaniaeacasa.ro). Some 2,642 adults and children attended the Romanian language courses.
- JRS provided education services for 220 children provided at the Romexpo and Pipera hubs, as well as summer activities in educational hubs in Bucharest, Braşov, and Constanţa. Under AMIF funded project, JRS implemented various activities in Constanţa and Galaţi, including education for both children and adults. In Constanţa, JRS organized activities under the Stiintescu project (a kitchen-based science workshop), aimed to provide learning support to all migrant children. In Bucharest, the Urban Summer School consisting of a three-week-long face-to-face intensive course for 96 children (aged 6-17) with support from ISMB. Romanian online classes were organized with the support of six Romanian teachers for more than 600 children under the Entreculturas project. JRS supported 15 Ukrainian and Romanian children enrolled in its programs to acquire the Broze Level or complete required sections of the programme in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.
- In August, World Vision provided educational support in six socio-educational centres ("Happy Bubbles", located in Bucharest, Cluj, Iaşi, and Suceava) for 400 children. During the month, the centres that maintained the "Happy Bubbles" programme focused on various aspects to ensure holistic skill development through access to non-formal education workshops as part of the summer school curriculum. These workshops included Romanian lessons, child protection and MHPSS, and integration activities. Interactive games and role-playing were used to encourage active participation in dialogues and discussions. Participants were provided with informative documentation regarding Emergency Ordinance No. 96/2024, including a set of recommendations on how to best address the educational needs of the children.
- In August, Save the Children organized summer school activities, reaching 892 children with Romanian and English language classes, support for school integration and non-formal education activities. Save the Children provided back-to-school support to 134 children, including backpacks with essential educational materials and assistance with enrolment in educational centres in Bucharest, Baia Mare, Constanţa, Galaţi, Iaşi, Suceava, Timişoara, and Tulcea. Save the Children also held a workshop in Suceava where children discussed good practices in the classroom in the context of the beginning of the school year.
- CNRR provided counselling on access to education in Bucharest, Braşov, Constanţa, Galaţi, Iaşi, and Suceava including assistance with school and kindergarten enrolment; recognition and equivalence of studies and diplomas; translation of documents for vulnerable persons, referral to Romanian language courses, and other educational activities. During August, the newly arrived refugees were interested in the procedure of school enrolment, as well as other benefits of the Romanian educational system.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There are still several challenges related to the efforts to fully integrate refugee children in the Romanian education system, especially as new enrolments will continue to increase. These challenges include limited capacity for places, challenges in the transition from audient to pupil status, insufficient teachers' preparedness to accommodate refugees, continuing language barriers.
- Some reluctance to be enrolled in the Romanian education system still exist, caused by concerns about study recognition and maintaining Ukrainian language proficiency, coupled with the prospects of a return, which have led parents to prefer the Ukrainian curriculum online.
- Based on the declarations of some Ukrainian parents, children are not enough motivated to attend classes as
- The NGO's challenges in maintaining financial support from donors and the uncertainty of sustaining the support of educational hubs.
- Identified needs include promoting Romanian language courses in order to increase the chances of audient children to qualify for the pupil status; Romanian language classes for adults; psychological counselling for



children; additional places in kindergartens and daycares; intercultural activities and close coordination with County School Inspectorates on delivering Romanian language courses.



## Health and Nutrition

### Achievements and Impact

- Access to primary care remains a priority for Ukrainian refugees. To facilitate primary care access for Ukrainian refugees, WHO Romania provides financial and administrative support to selected family medicine clinics in Bucharest, Braşov, Suceava and Galaţi, and Constanţa, incentivizing their engagement in the refugee healthcare program. During August, WHO supported family doctors delivered 327 consultations to Ukrainian refugees, including 49 childhood vaccinations.
- Psychological support remains a key health need for Ukrainian refugees in Romania. Throughout August, WHO cultural mediators delivered 57 individual counselling sessions and 6 group counselling sessions, in Bucharest and Constanţa, attended by 34 Ukrainians. WHO cultural mediators also organized four art and music therapy sessions, which have proved highly effective in addressing stress and anxiety among the Ukrainian community.
- Since its launch in April, the WHO translation hotline has experienced increasing uptake and positive reviews from users. A recent UNHCR survey found a 75 per cent reduction in Ukrainians reporting language as a barrier to uptake, which is likely to be at least in part linked to the hotline. 67 refugees were provided with interpretation support during medical consultations in August 2024, with a call time of more than 1,300 minutes.
- Given the high proportion of women in the Ukrainian refugee population, easy access to sexual and reproductive healthcare is paramount. WHO midwives in Galaţi continued to provide midwifery consultations for Ukrainian women throughout August and provided referrals to specialized care for 20 refugees.
- In July and August 2024, UNICEF, via its two partnerships, provided vaccinations to 45 children and delivered 1,684 primary health care services to 1,277 adults and to 270 children. Furthermore, Infant and Young Child Feeding counselling was provided to 371 mothers during 427 sessions. Additional 4,995 caregivers and child guardians were reached with health information and promotion services via call centres for Ukrainian refugees. Moreover, 44 health professionals were capacitated to provide perinatal services to Ukrainian mothers and their children.
- During August, Terre des Hommes supported a total of 500 children have benefited from individual or group mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) sessions, or by attending activities focused on psychosocial development in Bucharest and Braşov, as well as in Constanţa together with its partner the Civic Resource Centre and in Baia Mare with City Makers. In the three locations where services are offered—Bucharest, Braşov, and Constanţa—199 children participated in our MHPSS activities within Refugee Integration Facilities. Among these, 152 children engaged in digital skills activities held at the RIFs. In addition, 133 children received tailored information on their rights as children and how to access services in Romania. This information was provided during various MHPSS activities organized in the RIFs. Furthermore, 280 adults benefited from individual mental health consultations, group support activities, and participation in MHPSS community events alongside their children. During these events, 172 adults were provided with tailored information to support their specific needs.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Significant information gaps remain for refugees seeking healthcare services, impacting their ability to navigate the health system and access care. Information gaps range from confusion regarding health entitlements, to limited understanding of how to access national health services. To address this issue, WHO cultural mediators provided information on healthcare rights and services to 36 Ukrainian refugees, accompanied 91 refugees to medical appointments and directly scheduled 37 specialist appointments in August.



## Basic Needs

### Achievements and Impact

- During the last two weeks of August, UNHCR field teams together with DSU and the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations (IGSU), conducted visits to five collective accommodation centres across Romania. The visits to UTCB (Bucharest), M11 (Galați), Nicolina Centre (Iași), Association Sfantul Ioan (Suceava) and Timișoara Polytechnic University were part of an ongoing joint exercise that seeks to identify solutions for ensuring sustainable mid-term accommodation for the most vulnerable refugees from Ukraine who cannot achieve self-reliance. During the visits, DSU, IGSU and UNHCR obtained a comprehensive overview of the centres, including details on accommodation capacity and WASH layout, number of staff employed, costs to run the centre, potential funding and renovation needs, profiles of the accommodated refugees and available services. Three sites originally identified for the exercise in Oradea, Râmnicu Vâlcea, and Timișoara were found to have already transitioned away from hosting refugees from Ukraine, so they were not included. UNHCR partner the CSCM will analyse the collected data of the five centres to help further provide insight into the operational status and needs of each, and support data-driven decision-making for recommendations and future interventions of longer-term accommodation solutions.
- During the reporting period, NGO 4Change supported newly housed beneficiaries at the UTCB Refugee Transit Centre through counselling and information sessions. Two focus group discussions were conducted with older persons at UTCB Refugee Transit Centre. UNHCR was also present during the discussions, gathering information about the socio-economic situation of the refugees. 4Change also distributed hygiene kits at UTCB Refugee Transit Centre and Edmond Nicolau Refugee Transit Centre. UNHCR and its partners identified three homeless Ukrainians, two in Cluj and one in Suceava. All three have been sleeping in train stations. UNHCR was able to find accommodation for the refugees in Suceava at the ISU Emergency Transit Centre with eventual transfer to Nicolina Centre in Iași.
- In August, UNHCR provided multi-purpose cash assistance to some 350 vulnerable forcibly displaced people. These households were assessed and found eligible for cash for refugees under the specific needs programme during July. During August, UNHCR released the second and third instalments of cash assistance for around 1,000 persons, and the fourth instalment for 880 persons previously assessed and determined eligible for cash assistance.
- During August, UNHCR and partners distributed nearly 7,000 CRIs, including mattresses, body towels, blankets, pillows hygiene kits and adult clothing to almost 3,000 refugees living in Bihor (Asociatia Filantropia), Bucharest (DGASMB and Terre des Hommes), Constanța (World Vision Romania and Novapolis), Galați (Help Ukrainians Association), Sibiu (Sus Inima) and Suceava. So far in 2024, UNHCR has distributed 67,615 CRIs to 35,883 refugees in Romania.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Identifying suitable accommodation for new arrivals and those with specific needs and vulnerabilities continues to be a challenge, particularly for new arrivals and those who are unable to achieve self-reliance and require longer-term accommodation support. With uncertainties of future government support and organizations' funding shortages, there are concerns on how these needs will be addressed. UNHCR and partners will continue to monitor the situation, including the collective centres that remain open.



## Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion

### Achievements and Impact

- In August, the UNHCR Inter-Agency team published an employment dashboard on the UNHCR data portal (available [here](#)) which compiles data received on a regular basis from the Labour Inspectorate and the National Employment Agency on the employment trends of refugees from Ukraine. Based on the latest data, as of 31 July, 6,892 Ukrainians are formally employed in Romania with 2,703 employers. The number of employees has decreased slightly over the past few months, from 7,223 in June and 7,375 in May. In line with this, the number of registered job seekers has increased over the past few months from 22,804 in May to 23,142 in June and 23,273 in July. A strong majority of those employed (88 per cent) reside in urban areas, with the largest concentration in Bucharest (2,730), Constanța (434), Maramureș (421), Timiș (343), Cluj (325), and Brașov (279). Most refugees have found employment in lower-skilled professions including manufacturing (1,336), construction (1,208), hotel and restaurant (846), wholesale and retail trade / repair of motor vehicles (840), information and telecommunications (592), administration (510), other service-related activities (354) and transportation/storage (339).
- The RRP members continue to support refugee job seekers to enhance their employability and access the labour market through wraparound services including job coaching, counselling on labour rights, language courses, childcare support, entrepreneurship support, vocational training, and job matching. So far in 2024, the 11 reporting RRP partners in the livelihoods sector have reached over 10,000 refugees with these services.
- IOM has continued to facilitate the socio-economic inclusion of refugees and migrants through their Migrant Resource Centre (MRC). As part of the Ukraine Response, the MRC provides Romanian language courses for adults and children, educational and socio-cultural activities, MHPSS support (psychological counselling, group activities, improv shows), and legal counselling.
- As of 31 August, more than 1,000 refugee job seekers are participating in Romanian language courses offered by UNHCR through International House, aimed at enhancing their employability. Of these participants, 89 have completed the first 60-hour module, and 10 have completed the second 60-hour module.
- World Vision has continued its entrepreneurship training, attended by over 180 refugees. The training has covered various topics such as the legal and regulatory framework for setting-up a business in Romania, business planning, marketing research, and financial management. The course has also included interactive sessions through which participants meet with other refugee entrepreneurs to hear their learnings and success stories. On 16 August, they organized an interactive online webinar called “My business journey in Romania”, with more than 90 participants, during which seven entrepreneurs (the majority of them Ukrainians) spoke about their experience with setting-up a business in Romania.
- Project Voyager has supported refugees access to the labour market through their online job platform Jobs4Ukraine ([www.jobs4ukr.com](http://www.jobs4ukr.com)) which links job seekers with vetted employers. This month, 356 job seekers signed-up on the platform and 23 “matches” with employers were facilitated. In addition to the job platform, Project Voyager carries out in-person activities including thematic workshops, job counselling and “speaking clubs” where refugees can practice their Romanian and English skills.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The recent RRP [Programme Criticality Survey](#) for Q2 shows that the livelihoods sector has the most critical funding gap across all sectors, with only \$1.6 million (9 per cent) received against the appeal of \$18.3 million. Partners report being forced to close or significantly scale down their livelihood’s-related activities, including the provision of Romanian language courses, childcare assistance and vocational training, which are critical to enhancing refugees’ self-reliance.

## Cross-Cutting Priorities



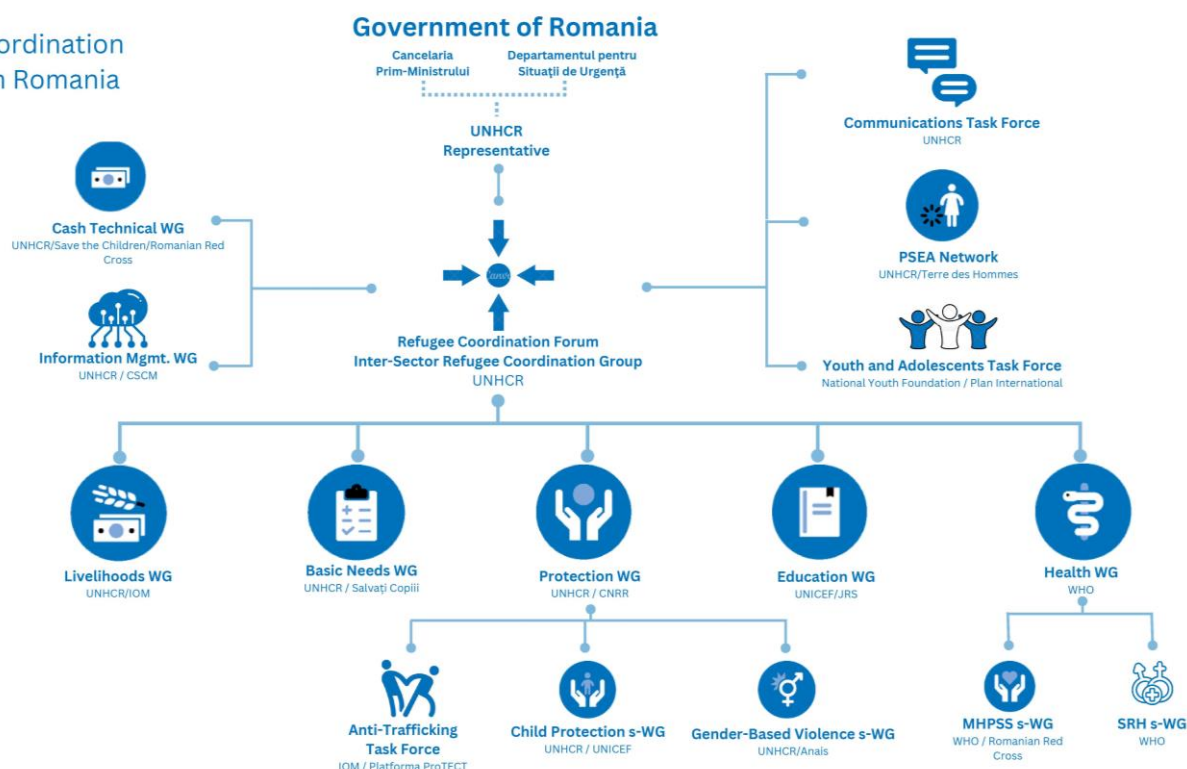
### Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

#### Achievements and Impact

- On 21 August, the IOM Romania team, in collaboration with representatives from the National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons (ANITP), conducted a comprehensive training session for 37 participants from the Directorate for Social Assistance (DAS) in Braşov. The session covered critical topics, including the complexities of migration, the identification and support of victims and potential victims of human trafficking, with a focus on recognizing signs of exploitation and understanding various forms of trafficking, as well as the importance of PSEA. A significant emphasis was placed on the PSEA component, aiming to strengthen the capacity of social workers to protect individuals and communities. The training delved into the crucial role of social workers in preventing and addressing sexual exploitation and abuse, discussing the profound impact of these violations and the essential measures needed to safeguard vulnerable populations. The session highlighted the importance of creating safe environments and implementing strong protective mechanisms within social services, reinforcing our collective commitment to making a meaningful impact in the fight against trafficking and sexual exploitation.
- Terre des Hommes carried out two safeguarding induction sessions for new staff and volunteers focused on the internal policy, mechanism, appropriate behaviours, reporting channels and response measures.
- On 8 August, Save the Children held a one-day training session on SGBV, do no harm and risk management for 10 aid workers that provide services to refugee children and parents. On 27 August, Save the Children provided a workshop for Ukrainian refugee women, raising awareness to sexual harassment and gender-based discrimination at work.

## Working in partnership

### Refugee Coordination Structure in Romania



In 2024, the Inter-Agency platform comprises of the following 37 appealing partners implementing humanitarian activities in Romania for refugees from Ukraine:

ActionAid International | Action Contre la Faim | Asociația Moașelor Independente | CNRR | CORE | eLiberare | FONSS | Four Change | Good Neighbours Japan | Habitat for Humanity | HEKS/EPER | HIAS | IOM | Jesuit Refugee Service | Migrant Integration Centre Brașov | National Youth Foundation | Necuvinte | Novapolis | ParentIS | Project Voyager | PATRIR | Plan International | Roma Just | Romanian Angel Appeal | Save the Children | SECS | Sensiblu Foundation | Sera | Sus Inima | Terre des Hommes | Tineri pentru Tineri | UNESCO | UNFPA | UNICEF | UNHCR | WHO | World Vision

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## LINKS

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