Collective Accommodation Site Assessment

From February 24, 2022, to August 31, 2024, millions of refugees have fled Ukraine, with 6,900,866 entering Romania. Approximately 177,000 of these refugees have registered for Temporary Protection or similar national protection schemes in the country. To address their immediate needs, particularly for accommodation, the Romanian Government, in collaboration with civil society and local authorities, established several collective centers nationwide.

To monitor the situation and identify the needs of these centers, the Romanian Department for Emergency Situations (DSU), UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, together with the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations (IGSU), through the county level inspectorates for emergency situations (ISU), and the Center for the Comparative Study of Migration (CSCM) developed a site assessment tool to gain insight into the operational status and needs of collective centers, and to support data-driven decision-making for future longer-term accommodation solutions.

This factsheet summarizes the aggregated findings from the assessment applied in the M11 Center in Galați. The data presented is indicative of the situation in the monitored site at the time of data collection. The purpose of this factsheet is to provide focused information on the conditions, challenges and opportunities in the collective center. It serves as a reference for central and local authorities, international organizations, NGOs, and other stakeholders, offering insights into the ongoing needs and issues faced by these centers.

Methodology

The data collection methodology employed in this study was designed to comprehensively assess the collective centers across Romania and comprised both quantitative and qualitative components.

The quantitative component focused on gathering numerical data regarding collective centers. This data was collected by ISU and the UNHCR Galați Field Office on August 26th, 2024, in Galați. The goal was to analyze the conditions, capacity, and challenges faced by the collective centers assessed across Romania.

The qualitative component consists in an interview with the UNHCR staff who visited the centers. These conversations provided valuable context, deepening the understanding of how the centers operate and highlighting the specific challenges and needs observed on the ground, but also opportunities for strengthening them.

GALAȚI

Collective site profile

104,750
AVERAGE MONTHLY COST (in RON) FULL CAPACITY

75
AVERAGE # PEOPLE HOSTED PER MONTH

102
TOTAL CAPACITY

Center is equipped for persons with disabilities: NO

Type of building: RESIDENTIAL BUILDING

TYPE OF MANAGEMENT	SOURCES OF FUNDING	STRUCTURAL ISSUES
Public local institution The municipality covers the housing and living expenses, increasing the dependency on public funds.	Current government assistance program Risk of potential closure due to funding constraints Future funding is uncertain, with no secured funding moving forward.	NO

Collective site overview

- No accomodation restrictions*
- Pet friendly
- Guarded center
- Sleeping arrangement: Private dormitories

Restrictions can refer to the lack of certain facilities or services to accommodate people with specific needs, the gender of the people accommodated, the family composition or habits.

Services Availability

The collective center in Galați offers housing and basic services for refugees, as well as WASH facilities. These services are supplemented by NGOs that provide basic support and two volunteers who assist in daily operations. The center's funding relies exclusively on the municipality, but with growing public pressure and potential funding constraints, the sustainability of these services is uncertain. Most residents are highly vulnerable and depend on support, with UNHCR regularly filling the gap by providing NFIs to meet their needs.

WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)

PRIVATE TOILETS & SHOWERS

LAUNDRY FACILITIES

Health

NO HEALTH SERVICES

Food Assistance

NO FOOD ASSISTANCE received in the past

NFIs (Non-Food Items)

SIGNIFICANT AND ONGOING NEED FOR NFI DISTRIBUTION

Refugees are housed in private living spaces, in a residential building, and do not receive meals. No NFIs are being offered within the center, but there is a significant and ongoing need for NFIs at M11. The center should be kept as a priority for NFI provision due to the vulnerability of its residents.

Communication

INFORMATION PROVISION SERVICES PROVIDED ON-THE-SPOT

FREE INTERNET SERVICES

Until recently, translation assisstance was provided informally at the center by a Romanian-speaking community leader, who had to return to Ukraine, so currently the center does not have a translator or a community leader.

KEY CHALLENGES AND NEEDS

Funding: The severe funding constraints lead to a heightened risk of potential closure.

Sustainability: Although the center receives basic services from NGOs, its daily operations remain heavily reliant on government funding. This reliance raises concerns about the long-term sustainability of the center, especially as the municipality faces increasing pressure due to negative public opinion about supporting refugee housing.

Limited NGO and volunteer support: While some NGOs provide essential services and two volunteers assist within the center, there are still gaps in comprehensive support, particularly in areas like specialized services for refugees.

Stakeholder Mapping

Municipality of Galați: The primary authority responsible for managing the center, overseeing housing and living expenses for refugees.

UNHCR: Supports the center by addressing gaps in services, including the provision of NFIs, and coordinating with other stakeholders to ensure that the needs of refugees, including those at M11, are met. UNHCR is involved in protection monitoring to identify and address protection concerns and ensure the safety and well-being of refugees at the center.

NGOs: Provide essential basic services to support the daily needs of refugees, as well as information and counseling.

Community Leader: Facilitates communication between the refugees and the local authorities, addressing issues and advocating for the community's needs.

Recommendations

Public awareness campaign: Address the possible negative public opinion by highlighting the humanitarian aspects and benefits of supporting the refugees, which may help in sustaining long-term municipal support.

Enhanced Coordination with NGOs: Strengthen partnerships with local and international NGOs to increase the provision of food, non-food items, and specialized services.

Secure Long-Term Funding: Explore partnerships with international organizations, private donors, and foundations to secure additional funding.

This factsheet was prepared by Alexandra Porumbescu & Anatolie Coșciug @ CSCM

Contact: rombuim@unhcr.org | Source: UNHCR