



# Romania

July 2022

Confronted with the largest refugee movement on the European continent in decades, the Government of Romania and partners including civil society, the private sector, volunteers, and international organizations have responded with generosity and hospitality. More than 1.6 million refugees entered Romanian since the beginning of the war. As of 31 July 2022, 84,357 refugees chose to stay in Romania. Approximately, 51,000 of them have obtained

protection to access national services.

UNHCR supports the Government in coordinating humanitarian actors through the Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) for Romania which includes sector working groups aligned with the national response. The RCF brings together all active stakeholders in the country including donors, civil society, the private sector, the UN, and other international organizations to ensure a harmonized and effective response.

The Government of Romania and UNHCR in a joint high-level event launched the National Plan (NP) of measures for the protection and inclusion of displaced persons from Ukraine, beneficiaries of temporary protection in Romania, as a vision for medium and long-term Refugee Response Plan (RRP) in Europe on 26 July 2022. The NP and RRP complement each other to provide a better life for refugees. They are “two plans for one response”.

## KEY FIGURES\*

**6.2 M**

Individual refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe (as of 31 July)

**1.7 M**

Total refugees who have entered Romania (as of 31 July)

**84.3 K**

Refugees from Ukraine remaining in Romania (as of 31 July)

**50.8 K**

Refugees obtained temporary protection in Romania (as of 31 July)

**65%**

Of refugees obtained temporary protection are women (as of 31 July)

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

**USD 1.85 B**

Overall financial requirements

**USD 1.08 B**

Funding received

**59%**

Percent funded

**USD 239.9 M**

Financial requirements for the Romania response

**30**

Partners involved in the Romania response

\*See the [Operational Data Portal for the Ukraine Refugee Situation](#) and the [Romania Page](#) for more details on refugee population figures and information resources. \*\*See the [Ukraine Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan](#) for a breakdown of sectoral response priorities and requirements and the [Refugee Funding Tracker](#) for RRP funding information.

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

## Operational context

As of 24 July, about 6.1 million refugees from Ukraine have been recorded across Europe. A total of 1,624,382 have arrived in Romania, with some 84,357 choosing to remain in the country (31 July). Some 50,857 have obtained temporary protection, which enables access to healthcare, education, and labour market. Most refugees are staying in the large cities.

On 26 July, **the Government of Romania in a joint event with UNHCR released the National Plan (NP) of Measures** for the protection and inclusion of displaced persons from Ukraine adopted in Romania and the **Refugee Response Plan (RRP)**. High level interventions were made through a message from the President of Romania delivered by the Presidential Counsellor, the Prime Minister of Romania, the Head of Representation of European Commission, the Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Assistant High Commissioner for Protection. Over 120 participants attended this hybrid event, including high level government officials, RRP partners and the diplomatic community. Ambassadors from France, United Kingdom and United States spoke on behalf of the donor community and expressed their support to the NP and the RRP. The State Counsellor and UNHCR Representative in Romania presented the NP and RRP respectively.



*The Prime Minister of Romania, H.E. Mr. Nicolae Ciucă, addressing the launch of the National Plan in Bucharest, 26 July 2022. ©Government of Romania.*



## PROTECTION

### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR and the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR), have provided in-person support to more than 14,000 refugees, and hotline support to over 11,500 refugees. Information requested concerned cash assistance, temporary protection, transportation to other EU countries, long-term accommodation, food, employment, education, and access to medical services.
- UNHCR and IOM continue to jointly support the authorities of Romania and Moldova by facilitating fast-track transfers from the Palanca border crossing point with Ukraine, in Moldova, to Huși, Romania. As of 26 July, around 11,700 people have been transported to Romania through this mechanism. UNHCR partner ACTED also provides transportation for people from border crossing points to other locations in Moldova and Romania.
- Provision of information on temporary protection, access to services and cash assistance as well as immediate referral to assistance providers, including psychological and legal assistance, is being carried out by UNHCR and partners in all relevant locations.
- UNHCR, UNICEF, the Child Protection Authority and NGOs, continue to strengthen the number of Blue Dots and strengthen the services provided with partners.
- Governmental and regional partners, UNHCR and UN Agencies continue to provide cash assistance, issue temporary protection and health care services in the RomExpo site in Bucharest.
- UNHCR's help line is receiving an increased number of queries relating to acquisition of Temporary Protection status in Romania. All the requests from the side of refugees have been addressed directly or through implementing partners in the field.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is need to support the capacity of the Government officials, such as Border Police and Department for Emergency Situation (DSU), NGO representatives and volunteers working at border crossing points and accommodation centres on protection issues.
- Language barriers for accessing services and general communication with the refugee population.
- A decrease in resources both human and material, continues to be observed both at the border areas and in temporary accommodation facilities for refugees.



## ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS (AAP) / COMMUNICATION WITH COMMUNITIES (CWC)

### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR and UNICEF are co-leading the Accountability to Affected Populations/Communication with Communities (AAP/CwC) task force. The task force facilitated the identification of referral pathways for organizations working with people with disabilities.
- The creation of the Regional Communication Centre, which will include Romania content, has been validated and scheduled for August 2022. UNHCR Romania has provided Q&A content and is discussing referral pathways between the RCC and the national hotline.
- UNHCR Romania Telegram channel has been opened, with publication of the first messages of interest to the refugee population. The information about the channel will be disseminated on social media and community trees.

- A self-Service feedback and complaint form has been launched during the last week of July and is being piloted by the UNHCR Field Offices, and disseminated through QR codes, links, and posters. It will allow direct two-way communication between refugees and UNHCR.
- A capacity-building package for Government, NGOs, and volunteers, including awareness on AAP and CwC has been developed, as has a two-way mechanism and accountability package for focus group discussions with refugees, which has been implemented in Galați, Isaccea and Tulcea.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is a need to further coordinate communication tools and response and integrate the messaging into existing communication channels used by refugees (telegram groups, viber groups).
- Mapping the virtual communities is a priority, and a community communication tree is being developed by UNHCR and should be permanently extended and updated. Coordination with People with Special Need (PwSN) organizations for content suitable for older people and people with disabilities is also paramount.



### CHILD PROTECTION

#### Achievements and Impact

- The child protection management system (Primero) is a joint initiative of NAPCRA, SERA and UNICEF with support from UNHCR and ATTA and it has been launched in Romania. Primero will be used for the identification and referral of Ukrainian children residing in the communities to enhance their protection. The current users are 317 people responsible for identification and registration of children and 47 county coordinators responsible for generating county level reports. The target is to register 38,000 children.
- Child protection actors are implementing various activities during this summer period including those aimed at giving children a sense of normalcy. Hope and Homes for Children organized 2 camps which were attended by 85 Ukrainian children and 15 caregivers in Sunrai Village, Sighetul and Marmatiei counties. Children participated in co-educational and recreational activities such as visits to museums, swimming, trampoline, horse riding, and other indoor and outdoor games.
- Terre Des Hommes continued its activities in Bucharest and started interventions in three new centres. They provided aid, information, referral, and translation support to 754 children and caregivers. They provided MHPSS support to 570 children and their caregivers at Ienachita Vacarescu School and the summer camp of DGASMB (General Directorate of Social Assistance in Bucharest Municipality) and ANAID. TDH also distributed hygiene, educational and recreational kits to 600 children and their caregivers at Romexpo and other sites where they are operating.
- UNICEF and DGASPC Iași set up a light Blue Dot at Sculeni border crossing. A container was delivered for use; furniture and training will be provided.
- UNHCR facilitated a child protection training for 36 DGASPC, NGO staff and volunteers at Tulcea and Galați with focus on the risk faced by children during forced displacement, physical and emotional maltreatment, and community engagement in child protection.
- Agencies continued to enter partnerships with other actors to enhance their response capacities. UNICEF initiated a partnership with NGO "Alternative Sociale", and DGASPC Iași and Vaslui to conduct a mapping of all CP service providers in Iași and Vaslui counties and finalised a partnership arrangement with FONSS to support the provision of services at Nicolina Center in Iași. UNHCR is finalizing partnership agreements with Plan International, Terre Des Hommes and Autism Voice for implementation of child protection activities in Bucharest, Sucaeva, Galați, Iași, Constanta, and Brasov. These partnerships will enhance UNHCR's capacity to implement activities including identification and referral, child friendly spaces and psychosocial support to children and their care givers.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There are gaps in provision of Psychosocial Support activities during this summer period due to not having enough organizations.
- Outreach to refugee children in the communities to identify and respond to their specific needs remains a challenge and priority.



### GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

#### Achievements and Impact

- In July, UNHCR facilitated GBV session for 15 Ukrainian community leaders in Bucharest. 31 DGASPC staff and 06 NGOs staff and volunteers were trained on GBV prevention, core concepts and guiding principles in Tulcea and Galați.
- GBV poster with national emergency numbers, ANES hotlines, UNHCR helpline and referral pathways were translated into Romanian, Ukrainian and Russian languages and shared with protection and humanitarian actors. Referral pathways are now operational and being used by protection and humanitarian actors. It has been agreed, through the Protection Working Group to revalidate referral pathways in a three months' time to adjust the changes accordingly.
- One GBV case was reported to UNHCR via helpline number and referred to GBV partner who provided services.
- GBV awareness sessions/discussions were held with some 43 Ukrainians in Galați and Tulcea and information shared on emergency services for GBV survivors, emergency contact numbers, general information on protection, PSEA and Child Protection.
- UNHCR and National Agency for Equal Rights and Domestic Violence (NAES) agreed to increase cooperation on GBV service provision, capacity building and strengthen GBV services in Romania.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Needs include strengthening the capacity of government officials (Border Police, GII, DGASPC, DSU and Police), NGO representatives and volunteers working at border crossing points; establishing safe houses/shelters for GBV survivors; enhancing awareness among Ukrainians and TCNs on GBV service provision; resolving language barriers by interpretation in Ukrainian and Russian languages especially for hotlines/emergency service providers for medical, Clinical Management of Rape (CMR) and legal support to GBV survivors, and advocating for reporting GBV cases.



## **TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (TIP)**

### **Achievements and Impact**

- The Crisis Response Anti-Trafficking Task Force, co-lead by IOM and ProTECT Platform, continued to be convened throughout July. A fit-for-purpose reporting tool has been developed in consultation with members and an action plan is currently being strengthened with members nominated to support in the implementation of various tasks.
- The Kompas model of intervention developed by eLiberare has been implemented by eLiberare and several partners including LOGS in Timisoara, People 2 People Foundation in Oradea and IZA Association in Tulcea. This model has assisted over 500 people and their families to develop safety plans reducing their vulnerability to trafficking and providing practical supports to reduce risk (85% of those were women and over 597 children included within the plans). Steps have been made to expand this model in Romania and abroad.
- Over 53,000 anti-trafficking awareness fliers developed by IOM, ProTECT and ANITP have been printed and disseminated, including at border crossing points by immigration authorities.

### **Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**

- There is a need to continue to monitor changing TiP trends and recruitment methods to ensure interventions are tailored.
- Continued capacity building amongst relevant authorities and humanitarian actors for the proactive identification of potential victims, response and understanding of the National Identification and Referral Mechanism.



## **PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (PSEA)**

### **Achievements and Impact**

- A UNHCR protection team conducted a general awareness session on protection, including aspects of PSEA in Tulcea and Galati with the participation of a total of 45 Ukrainian refugees. It was noted that the refugees have a good understanding of their rights and of the risks of SEA, but limited knowledge of the reporting mechanisms. Additionally, they shared their concerns about safety implications, should they report eventual suspicion of SEA by humanitarians, including volunteers.
- The PSEA Network has welcomed 5 new members and is working in further expanding its membership. To this end, UNHCR and UNICEF are organising a day-long online Training of Trainers on the first week of August.
- UNHCR has started disseminating “Stay Safe”, an animated video prepared by HQ and available in English, Russian and Ukrainian that demonstrates good practices for the refugees to mitigate the risks of fraud and SEA.
- PSEA Network has started disseminating a new training tool prepared by UNHCR, the Gouta case conference to support facilitation of trainings on SEA investigation.



## EDUCATION

### Achievements and Impact

- The Education Sub-Working Group (SWG) is co-led by UNICEF and Ministry of Education (MoE) with the aims to enhance the education of refugee children from Ukraine and integrate them within the national education system.
- Currently 2,577 Ukrainian students, out of which, 991 pre-schoolers, are enrolled in Romanian schools.
- All Blue Dots are equipped with safe play and learning spaces, making the education supplies available for refugees and children on the move.
- SEIRCAR project, Plan International/JRS, has reached 1,379 (757 girls and 622 boys) out of school Ukrainian refugee children, supported 16 TLCs and NFE centres and provided 397 (212 boys and 185 girls) extra -curricular activities such as summer camp, integration, and language classes. Moreover, the project supported the Ukrainian teacher platform and facilitated the first refugee teacher conference attended by 37 teachers. 18 teachers were trained on Psychosocial Support – Social Emotional Learning, child protection and safeguarding, gender responsive learning and classroom management.
- Save the Children Romania began to carry out summer activities involving Ukrainian and Romanian children in eight schools across the country.
- World Bank rolled out a “Project Based Learning” initiative which mixes Romanian and Ukrainian teachers to provide children with the opportunity to continue their learning process.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Data on the numbers of children accessing Ukrainian online education and the Ukrainian children’s engagement with the Romanian education system remains fragmented and incomplete. In addition, the ongoing mobility of Ukrainians into and out of Romania, as well as within Romania, makes it challenging to predict what enrolment patterns are likely to look like for the 2022-23 school year.
- The process for full enrolment of Ukrainian children in Romanian schools is onerous and time-consuming, particularly considering the lack of educational records from Ukraine. There is an urgent need to simplify these procedures ahead of the likely increase in requests for enrolment for the 2022-23 school year.
- Challenges in identifying and addressing the needs of children with learning or physical disabilities remain. UNICEF and other RRP partners continue to advocate adopting a cross-sectoral approach and a continuous collaboration with other sectors (such as protection and health) to identify and adequately respond to children in need.
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## HEALTH

### Achievements and Impact

- A total of 131 patients received primary health services, reproductive and sexual health services and psychological counselling and emotional support for children and adults in RomExpo in Bucharest.
- Work is ongoing on script revision to produce a video explaining how health system works in Romania.
- 35 translation devices have been procured for FDs and refugees centres.
- Information materials for refugees, humanitarian workers and healthcare workers in Ukrainian, Romanian, and English languages were disseminated.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The main identified gap continues to be around practice barriers at level of family doctors and pharmacies in application of legislation providing full free health coverage for refugees. Work is continuing with the National Health Insurance House to overcome them.



### **MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)**

#### **Achievements and Impact**

- In the RomExpo MHPSS Center, WHO continued to commit resources to support mental well-being for the Ukrainian refugees, care that is essential for meeting the long-term mental health needs of those affected.
- A planned data collecting questionnaire is a critical component in efforts to cover the data gap and scale up refugees' mental health programs. The collection of data looks for the prevalence of mental health distress and psychiatric disorders focusing on post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

#### **Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**

- The need to develop targeted mental health programmes for Ukrainian refugees led to an effort to identify their mental health data at country level. There is currently very limited information on the psychological and psychiatric problems of refugees in the region, and existing data is informal. The lack of statistical data on mental health is an aspect that is also related to the functioning and structure of the whole mental health system due to the difficulties of finding data for the Romanian population as well. Stigma is a recognized issue related to people facing mental disorders.



### **CASH-BASED ASSISTANCE**

#### **Achievements and Impact**

- As of 26 July, UNHCR had enrolled over 11,000 individuals and cash had been transferred to over 9,000 individuals in Romania. The enrolments were done through all centres in Bucharest, Brasov, Galați, Iași, and Suceava.
- UNHCR and Red Cross concluded the minimum data requirement to utilize the bilateral data sharing agreement for de-duplication. UNHCR and RRC agreed to held more technical meetings with actual data sharing by end of July 2022.
- The initial risk matrix for in person enrolment was agreed in the Cash WG and is to be reviewed and updated on quarterly basis.

#### **Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps**

- There is need to further discuss the workplan for the Cash WG and the provision of sectoral cash assistance/ winterization.





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

### Achievements and Impact

- Habitat for Humanity continued to find solutions for long-term accommodation. As of July, a total of 98 people live in 30 rented apartments, for which Habitat for Humanity pays rent and utilities and provides everyday linen necessities and kitchen equipment.
- IOM Romania continued to provide accommodation through the Airbnb agreement to Ukrainian nationals and third-country nationals (TCNs). In July, IOM Romania provided 346 people with accommodation in 12 cities. Since April 2022, IOM Romania assisted 942 people fleeing the conflict in Ukraine with 8,114 safe nights of accommodation.
- IOM Romania distributed 209 non-food items (NFIs) in 6 (six) collective centres. Up to 31 July, IOM Romania distributed 6,958 NFIs across Romania reaching 3,364 persons accommodated in the centres.
- Good Neighbours provided shelter support to about 2.400 refugees in Galati, Suceava, and Constanta.
- UNHCR coordinated the response to gaps in food provision resting from World Central Kitchen withdrawal at the national level.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is a need to provide long-term accommodation for the people living in collective shelters, as many of them are closing.



## LIVELIHOODS AND INCLUSION

### Achievements and Impact

- According to the employment services, 3,800 Ukrainians have been employed in Romania to date, through great efforts by especially the private sector who have actively amended policies in support of Temporary Protection permit holders. This however still leaves the vast majority of those available to the labour market un- or informally employed.
- The 30+ organizations who have joined the newly establish Livelihoods WG have presented an impressive range of activities in support of livelihoods and economic inclusion, including employment services, skills and language courses, childcare, entrepreneurship, and mentoring.
- 4,500 Ukrainians have been registered in the Jobs for Ukraine database as of 22 July. The database has recently added a range of jobs that do not require Romanian or English, which will promote self-reliance of particularly vulnerable households.

#### Global Compact on Refugees

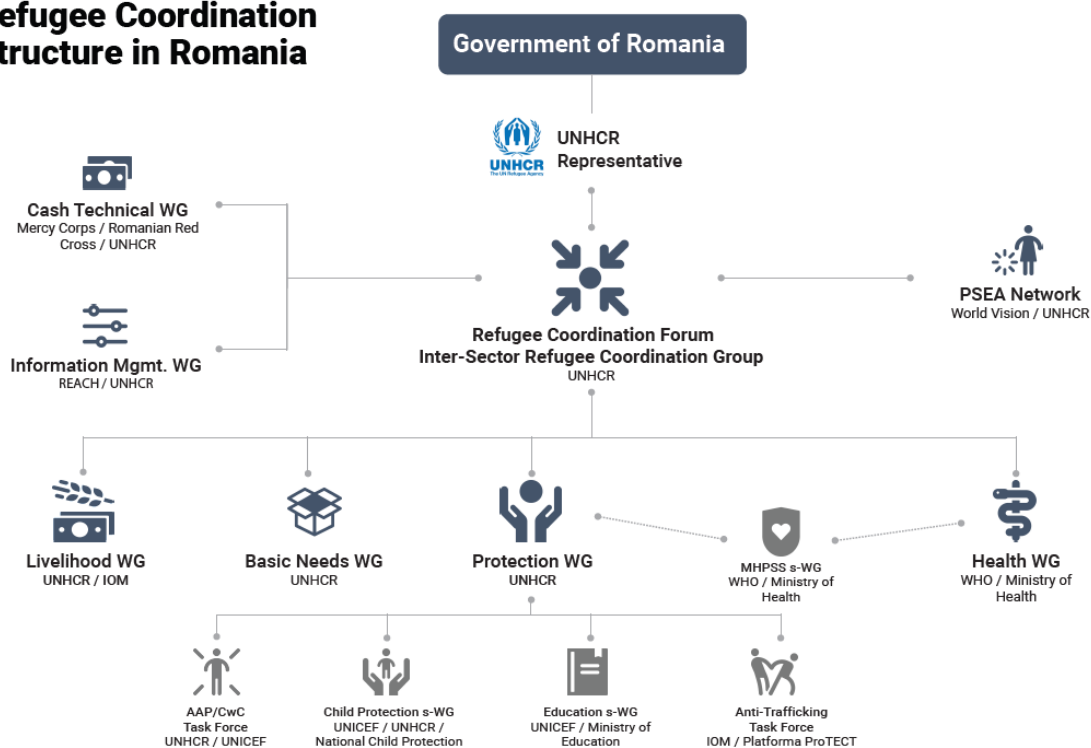
Objective II (para 7) of the GCR is to enhance refugee self-reliance for example through fostering inclusive economic growth for host communities and refugees (para 70). In line with the GCR's call to strengthen national arrangements (para 20-21), the Government of Romania has launched the employment chapter of the national action plan on 26 July. According to national statistics, 3,800 Ukrainians are already working and contributing to the local economy. A newly established livelihoods working group co-led by IOM and UNHCR consisting of +30 organizations will complement and support the government in this endeavour.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The employment services, ANOFM, has officially requested that all partners create referral pathways to the employment services, as part of the NP, in order to provide the main entry point to the labour market in Romania. This poster may be used to share information on rights and locations of employment centres.
- ANOFM requested partners to submit detailed information on their activities, through UNHCR as well a lead of the WG, to align their activities under the NP’s employment chapter, and create referrals to the 5W partners.
- A pilot will be commenced by Ateliere Fara Frontiere (AFF), including a service mapping and research on gaps and referral pathways to livelihoods related services for vulnerable households, and will be shared widely once finalized.

### Working in partnership

#### Refugee Coordination Structure in Romania



ACF- ACTION CONTRE LA FAIM | ACT ALLIANCE / CHRISTIAN AID | ACTION AID | ALLIANCE FOR ACTION AID | CARE INTERNATIONAL | CARE UK | CESVI - ROMANIA | CATHOLIC AGENCY FOR OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT | DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL | FONSS - FEDERATION OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR SOCIAL SERVICES | HOPE AND HOMES FOR CHILDREN | JRS - JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE | MERCY CORPS | NATIONAL YOUTH FOUNDATION | NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL | OXFAM GB | PLAN INTERNATIONAL | PROJECT HOPE | SAVE THE CHILDREN | SOLIDAR SUISSE | TERRE DES HOMMES | UNESCO | IOM | UNFPA | UNHCR | UNICEF | WHO | WFP | WORLD VISION INTERNATIONAL | WORLD VISION UK

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**LINKS**

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