



Romania

October 2022

Since the war in Ukraine began on 24 February, over 2.1 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. The Refugee Response Plan (RRP) supports the Government of Romania in protecting and assisting refugees from Ukraine in Romania.

UNHCR supports the Government in coordinating humanitarian actors under the framework of the RRP and through the Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) and sector working groups, aligned with the governmental National Plan (NP) of Measures. The "two plans; one response" approach brings together stakeholders in the country to ensure a harmonized response.

Partners of RRP undertook a recalibration exercise during September 2022. The Regional RRP Recalibration was launched with an online event, chaired by the UNHCR and UNICEF Deputy Regional Directors on 7 October 2022 and with active participation of RRP partner, the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR).

KEY FIGURES* (as of end October)

7.7 M

Refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe

2.16 M

Border crossing into Romania

87.8 K

Refugees from Ukraine remaining in Romania

78.3 K

Refugees who obtained temporary protection in Romania

62%

Of refugees who obtained temporary protection are women and girls

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

USD 1.79 B

Overall financial requirements

73%

Funded for the overall RRP

USD 226.6 M

Financial requirements for the Romania response

92%

Funded for the Romania response

22

Appealing partners involved in the Romania RRP

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

Operational context

Since 24 February 2022, about 7.7 million refugees from Ukraine have been recorded across Europe. A total of 2,166,308 border crossings from Ukraine (1,886,071) and Moldova (280,238) into Romania have been recorded, with some 87,853 choosing to remain in the country. Some 78,323 have obtained temporary protection (77,496 Ukrainian and 827 TCNs), which enables access to healthcare, education, and the labour market. Most refugees are staying in large cities such as Bucharest, Constanta, and Brasov.

On 7 October, the Regional RRP Recalibration was launched with an online event, chaired by the UNHCR and UNICEF Deputy Regional Directors. A panel, composed of 3 national NGOs, including CNRR for Romania provided an overview of the initial response and the core strategic changes since the onset of the emergency. In its panel intervention, CNRR focused on the core role first-line responders provided in the border area, the strategic guidance of the Government of Romania through the development of the national Plan of Measures on the Protection and Inclusion of refugees from Ukraine, and the emerging needs and the work the RRP partners can play to support and complement the Government of Romania. In a Q&A session, CNRR emphasized the need for longer term funding to ensure continuity, predictability and a way to support maintaining social cohesion between refugee and host communities.

On 27 October, the first meeting of the Government Working Group on Protection from Sexual Exploitation (PSEA) and Anti-Trafficking took place in Bucharest. The working group was constituted by the Romania Prime Minister's decision and presided by the State Counsellor. The meeting was focused on drafting its action plan. UNHCR as co-lead, represented the PSEA Network and advocated for the creation of a vetting system for volunteers, those involved in the accommodation scheme and for all actors involved in the refugee response.

On 27 October, the Inter-Agency Coordination Team facilitated a local refugee support coordination network meeting in Suceava, in partnership with the Suceava county prefecture. Supported by the UNHCR Suceava Field Office, the event brought together over 40 people representing a wide range of NGOs and Government agencies providing support to refugees in the county. The network provided a space for local actors to hear from local authorities on local and national coordination arrangements, share information on existing programs and services being provided for the support and integration of refugees and explore and agree on the steps needed to enhance coordination and complementary cooperation between humanitarian actors in Suceava county. The event was the first of several pilot events planned to be held around in other cities of Romania where high numbers of refugees are located.

Spotlight on: The Nicolina Centre (Soseaua Nicolina), Iasi

The “Nicolina Centre for Humanitarian and Social Assistance” is a one-stop centre, coordinated by RRP partner FONSS, in partnership with associations like Afterhills, ParentIS and Group Our Smile operating in the municipality of Iasi. The centre, providing a complex hub of services, is benefitting from an active collaboration with the local authorities (Inspector for Emergency Situation (ISU) Iasi, City Hall, Iasi Prefecture) and is operating from a building provided by the City Hall of Iasi. The Nicolina Centre started to receive Ukrainian refugees and Third Country Nationals (TCNs) on March 24, 2022.



The Nicolina Centre has provided services to over 1450 refugees from Ukraine and many others, from Iasi community, have received psycho-social, administrative, legal and medical support in the centre. A team of

over 50 social workers, psychologists, nurses and community workers, employed by the Federation of Nongovernmental Organizations for Social Services (FONSS) and member/partner organizations, are available daily -in day and night shifts- to respond to a variety of needs of refugees through an integrated case-management approach from daily accommodation and meals, to specialized psycho-social and therapeutic services, day care, non-formal education for children, rehabilitation, mediation for employment, as well as distribution of food and non-food items, through the social shop.

To work towards an integrated approach and to enhance social cohesion, in addition to refugees from Ukraine, over 1300 persons with specific needs from the Iasi host community registered as clients of the social shop. The social shop is more than a distribution point. The social shop functions as an entry gate for registering persons interested in receiving the multitude of services offered in the Nicolina Centre to refugees and in-need host community members, including for job search and job mediation.

The Inter-Agency coordination team would like to express its gratitude to the municipality of Iasi, the Iasi Prefecture and the ISU Iasi for its support to the Nicolina Centre.

For more information on the Nicolina Centre, please contact comunicare@fonss.ro or you can follow the centre here: <https://www.facebook.com/people/Centrul-de-Asisten%C8%9B%C4%83-Umanitar%C4%83-%C8%99i-Social%C4%83-pentru-Refugia%C8%9Bi-CTR-Nicolina/100083430632957/>



PROTECTION SECTOR

Achievements and Impact

- The provision of information and awareness raising remains a key activity for many protection partners, ensuring refugees are better informed on available services and are better suited to make informed decisions. In October, UNHCR and its Romanian partner, CNRR provided protection support, advice, referrals and information to over 48,720 refugees in person (34,763) and remotely through helplines (13,957). The Norwegian Refugee Council's partner AMURTEL conducted six outreach sessions and three PSEA and self-care trainings. The provision of legal information, counselling and assistance has continued through NRC's project with the Romanian Forum for Refugees and Migrants (ARCA).
- In order to support authorities and local organizations, and enhance the overall protection response, protection partners continue to provide capacity-building initiatives and trainings. This month, CNRR held five local coordination meetings with public authorities and civil society organizations in Iasi, Suceava, Husi, Galati and Baia Mare to support and strengthen collaboration and enhance local protection referral mechanisms.
- Multipurpose hubs and support centers around the country provide a space for refugees to receive a package of integrated services. In Bucharest, over 300 refugees continue to approach RomExpo daily to receive critical services through UNHCR, governmental institutions and partners. There was a noticeable increase in the number of refugees this month due to the UNHCR cash assistance verification exercise. In October, Fundatia Sensiblu joined RomExpo to provide GBV information awareness raising, counselling and referrals to GBV services.
- Supporting social cohesion, NRC organized a fair with traditional Ukrainian products in Bucharest, bringing together 675 participants.
- Emergency protection interventions remain crucial. As of 23 October, 13,368 refugees from Ukraine have been transported to Romania from Palanca border crossing point with Ukraine through the fast-track transfers facilitated jointly by IOM and UNHCR ahead of continuing their journey within the country.

Accountability to Affected Populations / Communication with communities

- During the month of October, members of the Accountability to Affected Populations / Communication with Communities (AAP/CwC) task force continue efforts to outreach communities and engage with communities in two-way communication on different topics and through a variety of methods.
- In October, UNHCR and partners shared information through a dedicated Telegram channel and reached more than 1,300 people. UNICEF's campaign on children's mental health and resilience reached more than 17,000 Ukrainian and Russian speakers currently in Romania. UNICEF developed micro hubs on its official website to share relevant information on immunization, nutrition and mental health and also called for feedback and the UNHCR's Help website, which provides key information to refugees, received over 81,600 visits since the start of the war in Ukraine.
- RRP partners also used more traditional methods. UNHCR carried out participatory assessments in regional reception centres, engaging more than 50 PoCs, in meaningful discussions on topics like access to territory, rights, services and treatment by host communities.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Information remains a critical need as expressed by refugees (and captured by the Internews Report, [Barriers and Bridges: Communication and Information Exchange with Ukrainian Refugees in Romania](#)), particularly for the most vulnerable, like people with disabilities, people with impaired vision, elderly and children. Concerted efforts will need to be taken to address these barriers and will be discussed within the AAP/CwC task team.

**CHILD PROTECTION (CP)****Achievements and Impact**

- Since the beginning of the crisis in Ukraine, 4,620 unaccompanied children have been registered by the General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection. Currently, 1,254 unaccompanied children remain in Romania together with a relative or legal caregiver, while 2,753 Ukrainian children are in the child welfare system. Prahova, Iași, Brașov and Bucharest (Sector 4) continue to be the primary counties where the majority of unaccompanied children are accommodated.
- As part of the national management information system for the rapid identification and documentation of all children arriving from Ukraine, with a particular focus on unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), 9,391 children have been registered in Primero and referred to relevant authorities for adequate case management. This exercise is conducted by a national network of over 300 social workers coordinated by county coordinators and the National Authority for Child Rights and Adoption.
- Providing harmonized services to children is crucial. UNICEF and UNHCR finalized the Blue Dot Safe Space, Protection and Support Hubs Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Romania and will use it as a foundation to establish site-specific SOPs for each Blue Dot in the country together with partners and the authorities. They, with the support of the authorities and partners, also continued to assess all six Blue Dot locations to ensure standardized service delivery and that each site is prepared for the upcoming winter months. The Isaccea Blue Dot is still under rehabilitation with plans for re-opening soon, and the Blue Dot in Galati will open to refugees to access services, including legal counselling and MHPSS support, on 31 October. The Digital Blue Dot page for Romania is a useful tool for refugees to identify Blue Dot locations in the country and the available services at each. It is regularly updated by the two UN agencies.

- Dedicated Child Protection services remain a core area of work for the RRP partners. During the month of October, Terre des hommes provided child protection services and referrals to 972 beneficiaries from refugee and host communities, including 676 children and 296 adults. Key services provided in transit centres, permanent and semi-permanent centres in Bucharest, Brasov and Constanta included mental health and psycho-social support for children and adolescents and referrals to other services, including social welfare services, cash/voucher support, education, job orientation support, legal assistance, community integration, family reunification, housing and shelter support, translation, information on local rights, help with getting legal status and family reunification. World Vision reached around 200 children with various child protection services and activities.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Child protection activities continue to be primarily concentrated along the border areas with Ukraine and Moldova and there are risks being a gap in service provision in other locations. RRP partner will map the services that are available -through a mapping exercise and through updating of the 5Ws- and analyse the geographical coverage based upon the mapping
- To ensure that all identified child protection cases are referred to child protection authorities (i.e., the General Directions for Social Assistance and Child Protection, DGASPC), SOPs for the referral of identified child protection cases to specialised service providers will need to be reviewed, adjusted and/or formalized



EDUCATION SECTOR

Achievements and Impact

- Despite the change of the Minister of Education on 4 October, the main strategic directions of Romanian's education response have remained the same. The Ministry of Education (MoE) bases its response on a decision taken in March 2022, giving the administrative instructions for inclusion of Ukrainian refugees in Romanian schools. However, despite best efforts, barriers remain to facilitate the inclusion of Ukrainian pupils in national schools, including language, classroom availability, pedagogical differences, Ukrainian hope for limited stay in Romania, perceived complex process for certification, unequal capacities at decentralised level and MoE of Ukraine's preference for maintaining a link with Ukrainian system (via online support). As a result, only about 4,000 Ukrainian children are currently officially enrolled. With the goal of inclusion, a flexible approach is still being offered combining inclusion into Romanian schools, parallel access to Ukrainian classes supported by international partners, third language education (English) and online education, but with a principle of "controlled" or "facilitated" environment in classroom-type of education hubs. The response thus mixes an approach of systemic reinforcement and complementary education.
- This has led to some results. More than 4,000 children benefited from some form of face-to-face Ukrainian education while surveys indicated that 71 per cent Ukrainian children resort, in parallel or exclusively from Ukrainian online systems
- Coordination takes place at two level, with a functioning inter-agency working group mostly aimed at international and NGO stakeholder, to which the government of Romania participates, and a more recently reactivated government working group to which some specifically selected international and civil society organizations can participate.
- Coordination action in the education sector is key, UNICEF pursues this in partnership with international stakeholders (IOM and WB) and NGOs to support the delivery of services, including via supplies (more than 160 school in a box benefiting up to 4,600 children, distributing 5,000 laptops for online education

and opening education desk), organizing language course (183 Ukrainian are attending) and cover initiatives in Bucharest, Iasi, Constanta, Cluj and Brasov.

- In partnership with IOM, UNICEF supported an innovative approach facilitated by the British Council on training teachers on interacting with children “in difficult times” to be able to detect trauma and adapt learning to not only the experience faced by Ukrainian refugees in Romania, but also in other countries and, ultimately, with some children facing difficulties in Romania itself.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- To further enhance enrolment, language courses for conflict-affected population need to be strengthened to overcome difficulties in enrolling children in the educational system and maintain retention rate of those that were registered in schools and kindergartens. Interventions also need to be more evidence-based. Education is not a monolith. Needs vary between access to kindergarten, preschool, primary and secondary school, while transversal elements of gender, adolescent education, early childhood education, disability, require the intervention of several sectors.



HEALTH SECTOR

Achievements and Impact

- Health service provision remains a core contribution of RRP partners. To date, IOM provided health assistance, including medical evaluations, recommendations, prescriptions for medication, referrals to specialists/for further investigations, and registration into the national health system to 4,045 Ukrainians adult and children. UNICEF supported implementing partners on provision of access to primary health care assistance and referrals to specialized services to 9,071 women and children. WHO supported clinics at the RomExpo provided consultations to 1,029 individuals so far.
- To further strengthen the national system, UNICEF supported the capacity building for 80 health professionals providing primary and specialized services for children and caregivers refugees in Brasov and Constanta. UNICEF also supported implementing partners on the provision of the Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling to 18 primary caregivers of children 0-23 months. UNICEF and partners continued sharing online and offline guides on nutrition, immunization, infection and prevention control and mental health at national level which has benefited 1,893 parent and child guardians with health information and promotion services and 440 refugees with hygiene and WASH supplies. CNRR continues to assist Ukrainian nationals with referrals to medical services, in liaising with medical professionals, including through the provision of interpretation services in Iași, Suceava, Huși (Vaslui county), Galați, and Baia Mare
- To reduce barrier faced by Ukrainian refugees and strengthen the national system, WHO contracted additional family doctors in Galati and Brasov to provide care to refugees. It also met with the National Health Insurance House to discuss sharing of data on refugees' care.
- Reproductive Health Kits including condoms, contraception, and medical treatments for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and Gender Based Violence (GBV) have been procured by WHO. Romanian Angel Appeal (RAA) in partnership with Youth for Youth Association organized two workshops on reproductive health topics for 17 adolescents who also received hygiene kits including condoms.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There are needs for better access to medical care especially on registration for a family practitioner, more support to vulnerable persons (e.g., persons with disabilities/chronical conditions/special needs) and training on the medical care provided to GBV survivors.
- The National Health Insurance House published a guide (in Romanian) on the rights of people arriving from Ukraine within the Romanian national health insurance system, providing guidance on access to basic medical services and to specialized medical care and medical programs. Nevertheless, challenges remain for Ukrainian holders of Temporary Protection (TP) in accessing healthcare services due to a myriad of issues such as language barriers and lack of address on the TP document.
- There are needs for more available assistance for vulnerable persons (e.g., persons with disabilities /special needs) and more expert staff for the provision of specialized support.



MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

Achievements and Impact

- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and distribution of Psychosocial Support (PSS) remain very important for RRP partners. UNICEF supported 974 children and caregivers to access MHPSS nationwide. IOM provided MHPSS for Ukrainians and TCNs through 90 individual counselling for adults and children, group and family counselling sessions, formal and non-formal educational and socio-relational activities for 640 Ukrainians up to now. Good Neighbors distributed 888 and 412 PSS kits, health information leaflets to 652 and 293 adults, carried out 40 and 72 PSS activities in Suceava county and at the Isaccea border respectively.
- Strengthening the capacity of the field staff in responding to the children affected by displacement and conflict and ensuring their safety is crucial. Therefore, Save the Children conducted a two-day intensive course on Psychological First Aid (PFA) for children, child protection in emergency and safeguarding for 121 experts from General Public Office of Social Assistance and Child Protection (General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection DGASPC) in five counties (Bucharest, Galati, Iasi, Maramures and Suceava).



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

Achievements and Impact

- Supporting accommodation and shelter for Ukrainian refugees remains a core area of support. Habitat for Humanity finalised the transformation and refurbishment of Edmond Centre in Bucharest, which will provide long-term accommodation for over 100 Ukrainians. In support of the renovation process, a team of volunteers joined the site which helped promote community involvement. Additionally, winter-related repairs were done throughout the building, in preparation for the cold season. The refugees are expected to move into the building at the beginning of November, including all refugees from the Ferdinand Dormitory which is unsuitable for winter. The refugees living in the Habitat Apartments received over 30 Winter Kits with warm blankets. Good Neighbors provided shelter support to 57 people (including 27 children) in Constanta and three meals per day, per person. Additionally, around 105 children received accommodation support through a local NGO partner in Suceava. To date, IOM provided accommodation to 1,886 Ukrainian nationals and TCNs.

- The Basic Needs Working Group held an ad-hoc session focusing on the food needs assessment done by DSU at the national level. The DSU representative pointed out that food-related needs moved from the border crossing point into medium to short-term accommodation centers.
- To date, IOM distributed 26,534 NFIs, 231,137 hygiene items across Romania. A total number of 5,464 and 6,047 beneficiaries were targeted on NFIs and hygiene items respectively.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Hot meals provision continues to remain a gap at the national level. According to the DSU needs assessment, around 7,500 portions of food per day were requested from 12 counties in Romania.



LIVELIHOODS AND INCLUSION SECTOR

Achievements and Impact

- Self-reliance and livelihoods of refugees remain as an important objective for RRP partners. IOM and Implementing Partners continue providing information, counselling, and tailored assistance to both Ukrainian nationals and TCNs in several cities across Romania such as Bucharest, Brasov, Cluj-Napoca, Iasi, Oradea. In October, they provided counselling to 315 persons. Up to date, they registered 1,912 Ukrainians. The assistance also includes language course, socio-cultural activities, orientation sessions and other non-formal educational activities, support for accessing the labour market, and support for registration in the educational & health systems.



CASH-BASED ASSISTANCE

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR is continuing to enrol refugees who have not received assistance from other humanitarian actors and/or new arrivals for Cash Based Intervention (CBI). As of 31 October 2022, UNHCR assisted over 26,000 people with Multi-Purpose Cash (MPC).
- World Vision also provided the first instalment of cash assistance to 150 disabled children. In addition, 3,292 children were registered and provided with child protection cash transfers worth 1,971,249.6 lei. Each child received 598.8 lei as a one-off payment.
- IOM provided cash assistance to 55 persons. Up to date, 721 Ukrainians benefited from IOM's support. An additional 37 Ukrainians were supported with cash for rent.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- To avoid duplication of assistance, there is an urgent need to have a mechanism in place to identify those that benefit from similar assistance through several agencies.



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

Achievements and Impact

- Training and awareness raising on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) among all actors involved in the refugee response are very crucial. In October, Sensiblu Foundation, UNHCR's partner, provided a training on GBV for 17 experts from public authorities and the Romanian Red Cross in Baia Mare. It also started the provision of GBV prevention and response services at the RomExpo. In addition, Sensiblu Foundation conducted eight awareness and support group discussions in Suceava and four in Bucharest for more than 160 refugees. A total of 164 dignity kits were distributed among women attending these discussions in both locations.



PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (PSEA)

Achievements and Impact

- Capacity building and training on PSEA remains a key activity for RRP partners. AMURTEL (NGO) trained 10 of its staff and volunteers at CATTIA refugee centre in Brasov. UNICEF and the Scouts of Romania conducted a face-to-face training session on PSEA for 13 scout leaders who will be implementing activities with children and adolescent refugees and host communities. IOM delivered training sessions for 50 of its and partners' staff in different locations within Romania and focused on social media posts on PSEA which reached 2,256 people. UNHCR delivered training session on PSEA in Baia Mare as part of the Sensiblu's GBV training for 17 individuals working for social assistance services, border authorities, accommodation centres and NGOs in Bistrita-Nasaud and Maramures counties.
- The PSEA Network organized a Training of Trainers (ToT) on PSEA for 20 of its members using the relevant Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) training tools co-facilitated by UNICEF, UNHCR and AMURTEL.



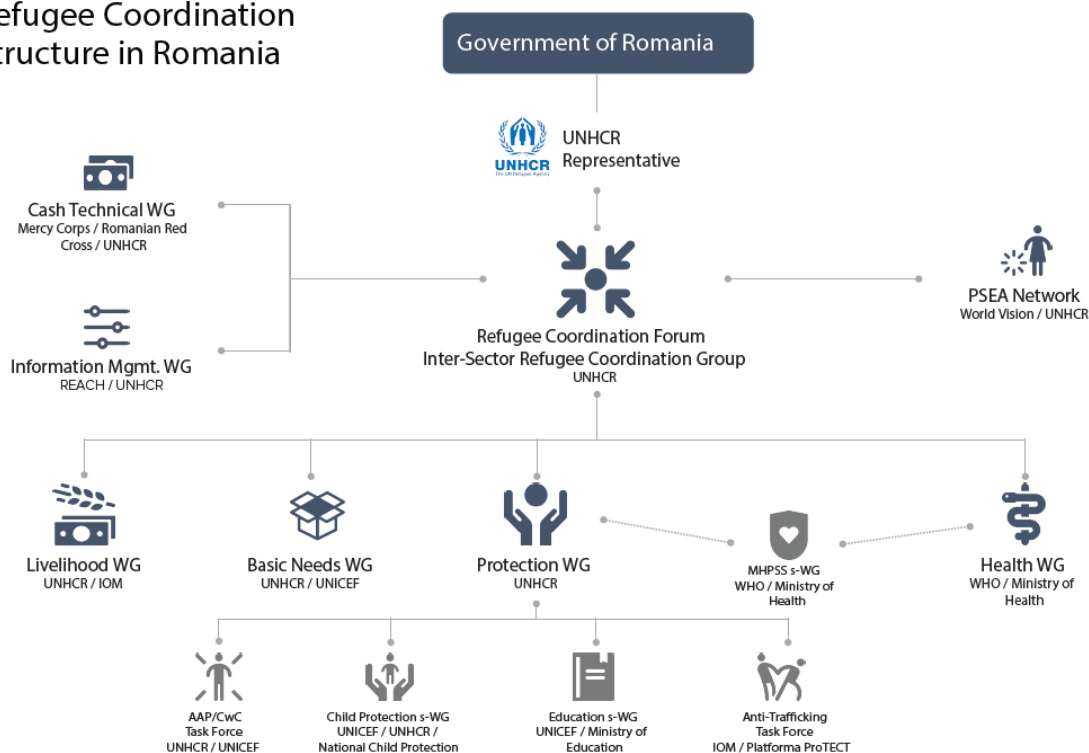
TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (TIP)

Achievements and Impact

- Raising awareness on trafficking and sexual and labour exploitation is crucial. IOM and its implementing partners continued raising awareness by focusing on social media posts and sharing 5,000 materials on counter trafficking, protection of its victims and survivors and referral pathways which reached 8,813 people.
- During the month of October, eLiberare and partners continued to implement the Anti Trafficking Support Model in different locations in Romania reaching 1,719 individuals. Through sharing videos in the social media, eLiberare reached over 31,000 people on Telegram and 16,000 views on YouTube regarding safety measures.

Working in partnership

Refugee Coordination Structure in Romania



CONTACTS

Sebastian Der Kinderen, Senior Inter-Agency Coordination Officer, Romania

kinderen@unhcr.org, Cell +40 725 566 165

Rozita Roghani, Associate Reporting Officer, Romania

roghani@unhcr.org, Cell +40 723 261 356

LINKS

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