

# Fundamental rights of children displaced in the EU following the Russian war of aggression

Romania

June 2023

Contractor: Human European Consultancy

Author(s): Ștefan Leonescu

Research manager: Romanița Iordache

## Disclaimer

This document was commissioned under contract by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) as background material for the project 'Fundamental rights of children displaced in the EU following the Russian war of aggression'. The information and views contained in the document do not necessarily reflect the views or the official position of the FRA. The document is made publicly available for transparency and information purposes only and does not constitute legal advice or legal opinion.

---

## Contents

## Contents

<b>1. Children fleeing Ukraine</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1.1. Data on children fleeing Ukraine</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1.2. Crimes against children fleeing Ukraine and children going missing</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>2. Child protection – legal, policy framework and procedures in place</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>2.1. Responsibilities of child protection authorities</b>	<b>8</b>
2.1.1. Individual children, including unaccompanied and separated children	8
2.1.2. Children evacuated from Ukrainian institutions	14
<b>2.2. Safeguards and measures addressing risk of violent crimes against children fleeing Ukraine</b>	<b>14</b>
2.2.1. Safeguards to protect and defend children from crimes	14
2.2.2. Support for children victims of crimes	15
<b>2.3. Guardianship/legal representation arrangements for unaccompanied and separated children fleeing Ukraine</b>	<b>16</b>
2.3.1. Arrived unaccompanied	16
2.3.2. Arrived without parents, but with other family members, neighbours or family friends	16
2.3.3. Arrived within a group, from Ukrainian institution or foster carers (with or without an appointed legal guardian)	17
2.3.4. Arrived within a group, through private initiatives, such as football clubs (with or without an appointed legal guardian)	17
<b>2.4. Placement of unaccompanied and separated children fleeing from Ukraine</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>2.5. Children evacuated from Ukrainian institutions</b>	<b>19</b>
2.5.1. Institutional placements	19
2.5.2. Alternative care	19
2.5.3. Safeguards for children placed in institutional care settings	20
2.5.4. Access to local services and support	20
<b>2.6. Child-friendly information and means to ensure participation of children from Ukraine</b>	<b>21</b>
2.6.1. Child friendly information	21
2.6.2. Child participation	21
<b>3. Access to social rights</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>3.1. Access to health care</b>	<b>23</b>
3.1.1. Scope of medical care for children fleeing Ukraine	23

3.1.2. Challenges in practical provision.....	23
3.1.3. Mental health and psychosocial support for children fleeing Ukraine.....	25
<b>3.2. Access to education .....</b>	<b>26</b>
3.2.1. Types of schooling.....	26
3.2.2. Support to integration in the formal educational system .....	28
3.2.3. Data on drop outs and NEETs (not in education, employment, or training) .....	31
<b>3.3. Access to social welfare – forms of social assistance related to children.....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>4. Additional legal and practical barriers and challenges</b>	<b>33</b>
4.1. General challenges.....	33
4.2. Challenges for children at multiple risk/disadvantage.....	33
<b>5. Policies in place</b>	<b>35</b>
5.1. Dedicated action plan and/or integrated measures .....	35
5.2. European Child Guarantee .....	36
5.3. Budget.....	37
<b>Annex 1 – Research and data</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Annex 2 - Promising practices</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Annex 3 – Legal framework of social benefits</b>	

---

# 1. Children fleeing Ukraine

## 1.1. Data on children fleeing Ukraine

**Table 1 Children fleeing Ukraine**

Category of child	Registration system Y/N	Number of children (as disaggregated as possible) (as of 30 April 2023 unless otherwise specified)
Overall number of children	Y	1,575,624
Arrived accompanied by mother, father or another legal guardian		
Arrived without parents, but with other family members, neighbours or family friends		
Arrived unaccompanied	y	5008
Arrived within a group of children, as an organised evacuation from Ukrainian institutions or foster carers (with or without an appointed legal guardian)		
Arrived within a group of children, through private initiatives, such as football clubs (with or without an appointed legal guardian)		

Source: General Inspectorate of Border Police.

A specific request for information sent to the National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of Children and Adoption (ANPDCA) on 26.05.2023. The answer is pending

*There are several databases used for registration of children fleeing Ukraine:*

- a. Registration of persons who enter and/or exit the country – with data recorded on age (including children) and the access is allowed only to specialised Border Police officers

### Total number of Ukrainian children who transited border crossing points

Type of border	Exit			Entry			Total
	Female	Male	U	Female	Male	U	
Airports	35,019	34,862	3	21,258	20,186	2	<b>111,330</b>
Harbors	0	9	0	2	7	0	<b>18</b>
Romania-Bulgaria	82,617	78,497	6	71,802	66,880	4	<b>299,806</b>
Romania -Moldova	28,070	27,455	6	86,111	88,086	24	<b>229,752</b>
Romania - Serbia	3,549	3,348	0	2,924	2,694	0	<b>12,515</b>
Romania - Ukraine	170,668	155,204	19	212,535	201,106	32	<b>739,564</b>
Romania - Hungary	71,127	75,286	7	17,831	18,383	5	<b>182,639</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>391,050</b>	<b>374,661</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>412,463</b>	<b>397,342</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>1,575,624</b>

Note - Data provided by the Border Police (response provided on 09.06.2023).

### Separated children who entered in Romania from Ukraine

Citizenship	Female	Male	U	Total
Azerbaijan		1		<b>1</b>
Belarus		1		<b>1</b>
Georgia	2	1		<b>3</b>
Israel		1		<b>1</b>
Moldova	1	1		<b>2</b>
Romania	2	1		<b>3</b>
Russia	1	3		<b>4</b>
USA		1		<b>1</b>
Turkey	1	1		<b>2</b>
Ukraine	2795	2194	1	<b>4990</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2802</b>	<b>2205</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5008</b>

Note - Data provided by the Border Police (response provided on 09.06.2023).

- b. Registration of persons applying for temporary protection – recording age and family links, accessible only to staff of the General Inspectorate for Immigrations. This is the general database used for registration of all foreigners.

A specific request for information on data recorded was sent to the General Inspectorate for Immigrations on 26.05.2023. The answer is pending.

- c. Registration of children by the specialised staff of the National Authority for the Protection of Child Rights and Adoption (ANPDCA) in CPIMS+/Primero database, which was operationalised at the end of July 2022<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> UNICEF, 830 refugee children from Ukraine were registered in Primero during the first week after launch, 03 August 2022, <https://www.unicef.org/romania/press-releases/830-refugee-children-ukraine-were-registered-primero-during-first-week-after-launch>.

A specific request for information sent to National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of Children and Adoption (ANPDCA) on 26.05.2023. The answer is pending.

According to [UNICEF](#),<sup>2</sup> Primero (also known as CPIMS+) is the (open-used) platform used under the coordination of ANPDCA, by all the General Directorates of Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPCs) in the country, to quickly identify, register, and monitor children arriving from Ukraine fleeing war, while they are on the move transiting through Romania, or during their temporary stay; it is also used for the early identification of potential situations of abuse, neglect, or trafficking, as well as for the implementation of all necessary measures to ensure and protect children's rights.

Primero is used by 317 trained users - social workers and psychologists - responsible for identifying and registering children, coordinated by 47 county coordinators, including the 6 Bucharest districts. Identification and recording are carried out only after the interviewee has been informed and asked for their consent. The Primero platform records data on parents, adults accompanying children or their caregivers, temporary or permanent residence in Romania, and their needs, including access to health, education, or social protection services, etc. The initial phase of registration also involves assessing their risk level. This helps a child to be referred to the institutions responsible for providing the necessary services based on their situations, such as county child protection directorates, social assistance directorates and immigration authorities.

According to the [UN SubWorking Group](#) of Child Protection<sup>3</sup>, specialised staff from ANPDCA had to pay visits to the communities and identify unaccompanied/separated children residing in the community and enrol them in Primero. UNICEF supported the authorities with the required equipment. Social workers from all local child protection authorities (General Directorates of Social Assistance and Child Protection – DGASPC) at the county level were trained on the use of this tool, and government staff, partner NGOs and volunteers were trained in the field of child protection.<sup>4</sup>

According to the [UN InterAgency](#)<sup>5</sup>, data from ANPDCA showed that 25,373 children have been registered in Primero from 25 July 2022 to 27 April 2023 by the local child protection authorities (DGASPCs), under the coordination of ANPDCA. As of 24 April 2023, 5,835 unaccompanied/separated children have been identified and registered by ANPDCA and the Border Police. Disaggregated data is only available for 5,220 children: 2,202 staying in Romania and 3,018 leaving Romania (transit). At the end of April 2023,

---

<sup>2</sup> UNICEF, 14,000 Ukrainian refugee children were registered in Primero in the first 4 months of its launch, 12 December 2022, <https://www.unicef.org/romania/stories/14000-ukrainian-refugee-children-were-registered-primero-first-4-months-its-launch>.

<sup>3</sup>Romania Child Protection SubWorking Group – Minute of Meeting, 16.06.2022, <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/94849>.

<sup>4</sup> Chancellery of the Prime-Minister, Report, Romania Response to the humanitarian crisis of refugees, October 2022, on the file with the author [the document was further updated].

<sup>5</sup> UN Inter-Agency Romania Ukraine Situation Update April 2023, <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/100727>.

ANPDCA had supervised 173 children from the Ukrainian childcare system and 41 unaccompanied/separated children.

## 1.2. Crimes against children fleeing Ukraine and children going missing

**Table 2 – Serious crimes against children fleeing Ukraine and children going missing**

Issue / risk	Number of cases i) reported and ii) investigated
Violence, including domestic violence	0
Sexual abuse	0
Trafficking for exploitation	0
Children reported as missing	0
Other crimes against children fleeing Ukraine	0

*Source:* General Inspectorate of Romanian Police, National Anti-Trafficking Agency.

According to the General Inspectorate of Romanian Police,<sup>6</sup> there were no criminal complaints regarding trafficking of children coming from Ukraine and no specific delegations to deal with such cases were received in the Direction for the Investigation of Organised Crime and Terrorism (DIICOT) files with this object.

According to the National Anti-Trafficking Agency (ANITP)<sup>7</sup>, there were no registered cases of Ukrainian citizens as victims of trafficking in human beings until June 2023.

According to the representatives of the NGO Terre des Hommes,<sup>8</sup> access to justice is limited inter alia due to the fact that the role of legal representatives was designated only to monitor cases related to abuses. In 2023, there were reportedly cases of sexual abuse in Constanta, and the phenomenon of beggars in Bucharest and Iasi.

---

<sup>6</sup> Answer provided by the General Inspectorate of Romanian Police by email on 12.06.2023.

<sup>7</sup> Response provided by the National Anti-Trafficking Agency by email on 20.06.2023.

<sup>8</sup> Interview with representatives of Terre des Hommes, 16.06.2023.

---

## 2. Child protection – legal, policy framework and procedures in place

### 2.1. Responsibilities of child protection authorities

#### 2.1.1. Individual children, including unaccompanied and separated children

A specific request for information was sent to ANPDCA on 26.05.2023. The answer is pending.

According to the representatives of the NGO Save the Children<sup>9</sup>, the notion of unaccompanied children had various meanings and interpretations done by stakeholders, with reportedly cases that could be considered as separated children arriving in Bucharest without any prior interview at the border or cases reported at Gara de Nord -Bucharest Railway Station of interventions with the Emergency units in order to provide necessary support.

Several pieces of legislation were approved with regard to specific tasks of child protection authorities both at national and local levels:

- a. **Emergency Ordinance no. 15/27.02.2022** on setting up of temporary accommodation camps as part 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<sup>10</sup> - Article 2 alin. (2) provided that local child authorities (the General Directorates of Social Assistance and Child Protection - DGASPC) may employ contractual personnel in the social services intended for unaccompanied children without organizing a

---

<sup>9</sup> Interview with representatives of Save the Children on 16.06.2023.

<sup>10</sup> Ordonanță de Urgență nr. 15/27.02.2022 privind acordarea de sprijin și asistență umanitară de către statul român cetățenilor străini sau apatrizilor aflați în situații deosebite/proveniți din zona conflictului armat din Ucraina, Emergency Ordinance no. 15 / 27.02.2022 on the provision 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 – available at: <https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocument/251954> (only in Romanian).



selection competition, depending on their needs, for a determined duration, which cannot exceed 3 years.

- b. **Emergency Ordinance no. 20/08.03.2022** regarding the support and humanitarian assistance to children, adults, people with disabilities, and all Ukrainians who come to Romania - Emergency Ordinance with additional measures for providing humanitarian support and assistance<sup>11</sup> - Point 11 provided that at the level of each county/sector of the municipality of Bucharest, operative groups for unaccompanied minors, without legal personality, are established, with the role of quickly identifying the most appropriate measure for the protection the unaccompanied child. The operative group is coordinated by one manager of the General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC), and includes representatives of the local school inspectorate, public health department and non-governmental or international organizations. At the invitation of the coordinator, representatives of other relevant local institutions may participate in the activities of the operative group, whose intervention can support the processing of cases of unaccompanied children.
- c. The Common Order no. 20360/366/776/12.03.2022 of the Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health setting up the Operative Group for unaccompanied minors<sup>12</sup> - establishing the main duties of the operative group (Article 3): a) ensures coordination and cooperation between the institutions they represent and the non-governmental organizations, in order to ensure respect for the rights to education, health, social assistance and special protection for unaccompanied children; b) contacts other local authorities, institutions and organizations that can intervene in solving cases of unaccompanied children and collaborates with them in the best interest of the child; c) it is ensured that all unaccompanied children are registered within the child protection system and that they are ensured, according to their needs, access to education, social assistance benefits and social services, as well as medical and/or rehabilitation services /rehabilitation; d) permanently maintain contact with the committees for

---

<sup>11</sup> Ordonanță de Urgență nr. 20/08.03.2022 pentru modificarea și completarea unor acte normative, precum și pentru stabilirea unor măsuri de sprijin și asistență umanitară - Emergency Ordinance no. 20 / 08.03.2022 for the amendment and completion of some normative acts, as well as for the establishment of some measures of support and humanitarian assistance, available at: <https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocumentAfis/252480> (only in Romanian).

<sup>12</sup> Ordin comun nr. 20360/3/336/776/2022 al Ministerului Familiei, Tineretului și Egalității de Șanse, Ministerului Educației și Ministerului Sănătății pentru aprobarea Regulamentului privind organizarea, funcțiile și atribuțiile Grupului operativ pentru minorii neînsoțiți - Joint order no. 20360/336/776 of the Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health for the approval of the Regulation on the organization, functions and attributions of the Task Force for Unaccompanied Minors, published in Official Gazette no. 246 of 12 March 2022, available at: <https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocument/252573> (only in Romanian).

---

emergency situations, under the leadership of the prefects; e) permanently maintains contact with the ministries or, as the case may be, the authorities of the central public administration under whose supervision or coordination the institutions that have appointed members operate or, as the case may be, those whose activity is methodologically coordinated; f) it is ensured that persons designated by the general direction of social assistance and child protection and the public health direction ensure permanence at the border crossing points with Ukraine, as well as at other crossing points through which groups larger than 10 unaccompanied children, in order to check the state of health and take over in the special protection system; g) identify the employees who speak the Ukrainian language or, as the case may be, the Russian language, who may be involved in supporting unaccompanied children during their stay in Romania; h) identify volunteers from non-governmental organizations, preferably speakers of Ukrainian or, as the case may be, Russian, who can be involved in supporting unaccompanied children during their stay in Romania; i) collaborates with the public social assistance services on whose administrative-territorial territory live unaccompanied children who entered the territory of Romania with an accompanying adult, in order to monitor their situation; j) perform any other duties necessary to carry out its activity.

- d. **The Common Order no. 20362/31/3386/812/400/2022** of the Ministry for Family, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Education, Ministry for Development, and the Ministry of Health for the approval of the Procedure for cooperation between authorities regarding the entry, registration, transit, stay, as well as ensuring the protection of the rights of unaccompanied minors<sup>13</sup>. It applies to all their subordinated structures (including border police) and establishes cooperation procedures between authorities on entry, registration, transit, stay, as well as ensuring the protection of unaccompanied children coming from Ukraine. It obliges the registration of any unaccompanied child identified at the border, thus ensuring traceability of children and accountability of social workers for vulnerable children. According to the procedure, the establishment of the special protection measure will also include the placement of children in public or private family-type services, with priority given to persons who speak Ukrainian or, as the case may be, Russian. The following cases have been regulated:

- If the unaccompanied child is in transit in Romania, together with an adult, other than the parent or legal representative, the

---

<sup>13</sup> Ordin nr. 20362/400/812/3386/31/2022 pentru aprobarea Procedurii de cooperare între autorități privind intrarea, înregistrarea, tranzitul, șederea, precum și asigurarea protecției drepturilor minorilor neînsoțiți care provin din zona conflictului armat din Ucraina - Order for the approval of the Procedure for cooperation between authorities regarding the entry, registration, transit, stay, as well as ensuring the protection of the rights of unaccompanied minors coming from the area of armed conflict in Ukraine, published in the Official Gazette no. 266 of 18 March 2022, available at: <https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocument/252735> (only in Romanian).

representatives of the Border Police, after control of the legal documents or any other related document, request the adult traveling with the child to fill in a standard form available in Romanian, English, Ukrainian, and Russian and includes information about the final destination, as well as contact and identity details of the accompanying adult and the child.

- If the unaccompanied child remains in Romania with an adult relative or a person who took care of the child, the representatives of the Border Police request the completion of the standard form. The form will contain information about the address where they will live, the contact and identity details of the accompanying adult and the child.
- For the unaccompanied child who remains on the territory of Romania and has no place to live, the representatives of the Romanian Border Police notify the National Authority for Child Protection and Adoptions, through the representative of the General Directorate for Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC). DGASPC should nominate a legal guardian, who needs to be further legally appointed by a court of law.
- The groups of children from the placement centers in Ukraine or from the special protection system in Ukraine are guided, by the representatives of the Romanian Border Police, to the representative of DGASPC present at the border crossing point. The transport of unaccompanied children (from the Ukrainian protection system) from the border to the social service identified by the National Authority for Child Protection and Adoptions is provided by the County Inspectorate for Emergency Situations.

Ukrainian or Russian-speaking interpreters, volunteers from higher education institutions or non-governmental organizations identified through the Task Force will be present at border crossings.

In order to ensure the right to education for unaccompanied children in Romania, the school inspectorates initiate the necessary steps regarding their enrollment in groups / classes / study formations in pre-university education units.

**e. Government Emergency Ordinance no. 100 of 29.06.2022<sup>14</sup> regarding the**

---

<sup>14</sup> Ordonanță de Urgență nr. 100/2022 privind implementarea Planului național de măsuri cu privire la protecția și incluziunea a persoanelor strămutate din Ucraina, beneficiare de protecție temporară în România, precum și pentru modificarea și completarea unor acte normative - Emergency Ordinance no. 100/30.06.2022 on the implementation of the National Plan of Measures on the Protection and Inclusion of Displaced Persons from Ukraine, Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection in Romania, as well as for amending and supplementing some normative acts, Official Gazette no. 653/30.06.2022, available at: <https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/256915>.

---

approval and implementation of the National Plan of Measures regarding the protection and inclusion of displaced persons from Ukraine, beneficiaries of temporary protection in Romania – provided for several measures to be taken in the area of children and youth:

- (a) protection from abuse, neglect, exploitation and all forms of violence;
- b) ensuring the participation of children in the process of elaboration and implementation of response measures;
- c) registration children in the national child protection system and ensuring access to essential child protection services, including monitoring and family reunification services;
- d) ensuring tailored support for children from Ukraine with special needs;
- e) protecting the best interests of children through durable solutions;
- f) developing the skills of professionals in the child protection system;
- g) to expand the activities carried out in the existing youth centres;
- h) development of the national network of Youth Centres, including mobile centres;

These competences have been assigned to the following institutions: (1) Ministry of Family, Youth and Equalities of Chances, (2) National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of the Child and Adoptions (ANPDCA), (3) local Directorates of Child Protection and Social Assistance (DGASPC), local public authorities.

According to the information provided by the [UN SubWorking Group on Child Protection](#)<sup>15</sup> since June 2022, the National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of the Child and Adoption developed two procedures that are relevant in enhancing the protection of refugee children: one on violence against unaccompanied children in Romania and the other one on identification, evaluation, assistance and monitoring of unaccompanied children.

The [Government of Romania](#) reported<sup>16</sup> progress of other measures for unaccompanied children:

- Strict methods and procedures are implemented to collect accurate information on each unaccompanied child, to detect any protection risk and to ensure that the necessary protection and support measures are put in place.
- Contact details and identity details of the accompanying adult and child are recorded by the Border Police.
- Representatives of the local authorities of the General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC), and the National Authority for the

---

<sup>15</sup> Romania Child Protection Sub Working Group, Minute of the Meeting, 02.06.2022, <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/94848>.

<sup>16</sup> Chancellery of the Prime-Minister, Report, Romania Response to the humanitarian crisis of refugees, October 2022, on the file with the author [the document was further updated].

Protection of Child Rights and Adoption (ANPDCA) are present at the border crossing points and are prepared to take over the identified vulnerable cases.

- ANPDCA is carefully checking families where children are placed in private family-type services, as a special protection measures priority being given to Ukrainian or, as the case may be, Russian speakers.
- Specific National Helplines for protection were established: a toll-free number to report emergency situations for children and a toll-free number to report situations of domestic violence, human trafficking, gender discrimination or other types of discrimination. Both helplines are operated in Ukrainian. According to the information provided by the Government, in 2022, the helpline of unique number for abused, neglected, exploited children – “119” recorded over 103,557 calls and 1,207 children saved from life-and-death situations (in both cases all children were recorded, no specified number of Ukrainian children). Also, implementation of a real-time alert mechanism for missing children RO Alert – missing child was implemented. Over 15 alerts issued to date (all children were recorded, no specified number of Ukrainian children)<sup>17</sup>. An official internet platform<sup>18</sup> with all information about the rights and services available to Ukrainian refugees, including information specifically for children, is launched and continuously updated.
- A coordination mechanism between Ukrainian and Romanian authorities to identify missing children reported by Ukrainian authorities on Romanian territory has been established to repatriate unaccompanied children from Ukraine and to identify solutions for family reunification in order to respect the best interests of the child. The mechanism was mentioned as part of the plan of measures to be implemented in Romania in order to provide assistance to individuals coming from Ukraine. There is no official information on the actual stage of the mechanism. In the same time, Save the Children reported one child of Ukrainian nationality, 6 years old, missing on 01.02.2023 in active records of the national Police.<sup>19</sup>
- Skill development of professionals in the child protection system continues to be provided, including the development of tools and guidelines.

---

<sup>17</sup> 2022 Report on Romania's efforts and achievements in the field of humanitarian assistance to refugees, the rights of the child and other vulnerable categories, press release issued on 13 January 2023, <https://gov.ro/ro/print?modul=comunicate&link=raportul-privind-eforturile-i-realizarile-romaniei-in-domeniul-asistentei-umanitare-a-refugiatilor-al-drepturilor-copilului-i-al-altor-categorii-vulnerabile-pe-anul-2022>.

<sup>18</sup> Available also in Ukrainian language at: <https://protectieucraina.gov.ro/1/>.

<sup>19</sup> Save the Children, <https://www.salvaticopiii.ro/ce-facem/protectie/copii-disparuti>. The case is no longer actively registered in the official database of the police: <https://www.politiaromana.ro/ro/copii-disparuti&page=1>.

---

Through the national social service system and partners, mental health and psychosocial support and services (MHPSS), individual protection assistance, information and referrals, translation, and guidance is provided as needed.

### **2.1.2. Children evacuated from Ukrainian institutions**

One specific request for information sent to ANPDCA on 26.05.2023. The answer is pending.

## **2.2. Safeguards and measures addressing risk of violent crimes against children fleeing Ukraine**

### **2.2.1. Safeguards to protect and defend children from crimes**

According to the General Inspectorate of Romanian Police<sup>20</sup> during March-April 2023, one campaign “Together we help more” was done in cooperation with the National Anti-Trafficking Agency (ANITP) aiming to prevent victimising of refugees.

ANITP carried out a series of activities on two important directions<sup>21</sup>: on one hand, dissemination of information on rights, access to governmental and non-governmental resources, as well as preventive recommendations to beneficiaries, and, on the other hand, training for authorities, in particular border guards, authorities at transit points, health and social services, service professionals and other frontline workers, to identify indicators of human trafficking and the vulnerability to trafficking of refugees, migrants and individuals displaced.

Specific activities carried out by ANITP in relation to supporting anti-trafficking efforts and preventing the victimization of people who fled the war in Ukraine:

- Information activities - in the areas near the border, in partnership with the other structures of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, as well as with non-governmental and international organizations, at the border crossing points, in asylum centers and accommodation centers for refugees from Ukraine, similar activities were organized later, in Bucharest and inside the country
- Distribution of information materials - more than 35,000 informative materials were distributed (posters, leaflets, roll-ups etc; info materials were also

---

<sup>20</sup> Response provided by the General Inspectorate of Romanian Police by email on 12.06.2023.

<sup>21</sup> Response provided by the National Anti-Trafficking Agency by email on 20.06.2023.

developed in Ukrainian, Russian and English, together with the International Organization for Migration, International Justice Mission, national NGOs (Eliberare Association and the ProTECT platform, the Ecumenical Association of Churches in Romania – AIDRom, Roconect Association - organization of the Romanian community in Great Britain, the Union of Ukrainians in Romania).

On the websites of [ANITP<sup>22</sup>](#) and the General Inspectorate of Romanian Police<sup>23</sup>, safety information addressed to Ukrainian citizens has been posted in Ukrainian and English.

A tool was developed for the detection and reporting of potential situations of human trafficking among vulnerable people, including refugees from Ukraine, which was disseminated for the purpose of training on indicators of trafficking and the profile of people vulnerable to trafficking, to all units of Romanian police.

Four thematic workshops "Response to the Ukrainian refugee crisis" organised with the support of the International Justice Mission, were held with the participation of representatives of the institutions responsible for managing this issue.

### 2.2.2. Support for children victims of crimes

The Union of National Bar Associations published on its website a [juridical guide](#) in Romanian, Ukrainian and English<sup>24</sup> to support Ukrainian individuals, and contributed to the legal part of the [governmental platform<sup>25</sup>](#) providing information on support and integration in Romania.

According to the [President of the Union of National Bar Associations<sup>26</sup>](#), the Bars provided emergency legal support in the first stage after the outbreak of the armed conflict in Ukraine, and further on provided support in the second line of the crisis, which have a significant legal component and are much more complex, while some related to legislative solutions, on secondary regulation.

---

<sup>22</sup> <https://anitp.mai.gov.ro/ucraina/> .

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/profile/100068788526987/search/?q=ucraina>.

<sup>24</sup> National Association of the Romanian Bars Campaign of free legal and humanitarian assistance for the Ukrainian refugees - Lawyers for the refugees, [https://www.unbr.ro/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Ghid\\_regim\\_juridic\\_brosura\\_RO-UA\\_RO-EN.pdf](https://www.unbr.ro/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Ghid_regim_juridic_brosura_RO-UA_RO-EN.pdf).

<sup>25</sup> <https://protectieucraina.gov.ro/1/> .

<sup>26</sup> National Union of Bar Associations (UNBR) and the Government of Romania: convergent actions in the refugee crisis, 18 May 2022, <https://www.unbr.ro/unbr-si-guvernul-romaniei-actiuni-convergente-in-criza-refugiailor/> .

---

## 2.3. Guardianship/legal representation arrangements for unaccompanied and separated children fleeing Ukraine

### 2.3.1. Arrived unaccompanied

One specific request for information sent to ANPDCA on 26.05.2023. The answer is pending.

According to the [procedure<sup>27</sup>](#), in case of the unaccompanied child who remains on the territory of Romania and has no place to live, the representatives of the Romanian Border Police notify the National Authority for Child Protection and Adoptions, through the representative of the General Directorate for Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC).

### 2.3.2. Arrived without parents, but with other family members, neighbours or family friends

A specific request for information was sent to ANPDCA on 26.05.2023. The answer is pending.

According to the [procedure<sup>28</sup>](#), if the unaccompanied child is in transit in Romania, together with an adult, other than the parent or legal representative, the representatives of the Border Police request the adult traveling with the child to fill in a standard form available in Romanian, English, Ukrainian, and Russian and includes information about the final destination, as well as contact and identity details of the accompanying adult and the child.

According to the [procedure<sup>29</sup>](#), if the unaccompanied child remains in Romania with an adult relative or a person who took care of the child, the representatives of the Border Police request the completion of the standard form. The form will contain information

---

<sup>27</sup> Ordin nr. 31/2022 pentru aprobarea Procedurii de cooperare între autorități privind intrarea, înregistrarea, tranzitul, șederea, precum și asigurarea protecției drepturilor minorilor neînsoțiți care provin din zona conflictului armat din Ucraina - Order no. 31/2022 for the approval of the Cooperation Procedure between authorities regarding entry, registration, transit, stay, as well as ensuring the protection of the rights of unaccompanied minors coming from the armed conflict zone in Ukraine, published in the Official Gazette no. 266 of March 18, 2022, available at: <https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocument/252735> (only in Romanian).

<sup>28</sup> Idem.

<sup>29</sup> Idem.



about the address where they will live, the contact and identity details of the accompanying adult and the child.

### **2.3.3. Arrived within a group, from Ukrainian institution or foster carers (with or without an appointed legal guardian)**

A specific request for information was sent to ANPDCA on 26.05.2023. The answer is pending.

According to the [procedure<sup>30</sup>](#), the groups of children from the placement centers in Ukraine or from the special protection system in Ukraine are guided, by the representatives of the Romanian Border Police, to the representative of DGASPC present at the border crossing point. The transport of unaccompanied children (from the Ukrainian protection system) from the border to the social service identified by the National Authority for Child Protection and Adoptions is provided by the County Inspectorate for Emergency Situations.

Groups of children in care accompanied by their carers from Ukrainian residential units received special protection in Romania [in several counties \(Constanta, Prahova etc.\)<sup>31</sup>](#). The measures of special protection for children are: a) placement; b) emergency placement; c) specialised supervision<sup>32</sup>. Also, it is estimated up to 10% of foster carers in border counties of Romania with Ukraine are Ukrainian native speakers.

### **2.3.4. Arrived within a group, through private initiatives, such as football clubs (with or without an appointed legal guardian)**

A specific request for information sent to ANPDCA on 26.05.2023. The answer is pending.

---

<sup>30</sup> Idem.

<sup>31</sup> Hopes and Homes for Children, Foster Care in Romania and Ukraine Crisis, September 2022, [https://bettercarenetwork.org/sites/default/files/2022-09/5\\_foster\\_care\\_in\\_romania\\_and\\_the\\_ukraine\\_crisis\\_v\\_3.pdf](https://bettercarenetwork.org/sites/default/files/2022-09/5_foster_care_in_romania_and_the_ukraine_crisis_v_3.pdf).

<sup>32</sup> Article 59 of the Law no. 292/2004 on protection and promotion of the rights of the child – Legea nr. 272/2004 privind protectia si promovarea drepturilor copilului, republished in the Official Gazette no. 159 of 05 March 2014.

---

The representatives of Save the Children<sup>33</sup> reported on extended interpretation of the notion of legal representation for a coach of one sport club from Ukraine, who could stay in hotels with children, without being officially considered as unaccompanied children.

## 2.4. Placement of unaccompanied and separated children fleeing from Ukraine

**Table 3 – Placement of unaccompanied and separated children**

Type of placement	Number of children	Details
With adult relatives	333	321 with adult relatives, 3 with persons employed in the protection system in Ukraine, 2 educators/teachers, 7 of extended family members
With a foster family	2	
With person who looked after the child when fleeing	166	10 with adults relatives, 3 with persons employed in the protection system in Ukraine, 153 of extended family members
In reception centres for unaccompanied children (all nationalities)	n/a	
In reception centres for children fleeing Ukraine	328	328 with persons employed in the protection system in Ukraine
Other placement	57	In transit centres, out of which 26 with persons employed in the protection system in Ukraine, 31 educators/teachers

Source: National Authority for the Rights of the Child and Adoptions.

A specific request for information sent to ANPDCA on 26.05.2023. The answer is pending. The data included above is not recent (dating from January 2023). The table included data reported until 31.01.2023. The question was related to children accompanied by adults who were not their relatives and, in general, have no relationship with the child, not even of legal representative in Ukraine. A total of 1,376

<sup>33</sup> Interview with representatives of Save the Children, 16.06.2023.

children were reportedly registered by ANPDCA, while references were done to the persons accompanying the child as of 31.01.2023.

## 2.5. Children evacuated from Ukrainian institutions

### 2.5.1. Institutional placements

A specific request for information sent to ANPDCA on 26.05.2023. The answer is pending.

### 2.5.2. Alternative care

A specific request for information sent to ANPDCA on 26.05.2023. The answer is pending.

According to the [procedure<sup>34</sup>](#), the establishment of the special protection measure will also include the placement of children in public or private family-type services, with priority given to persons who speak Ukrainian or, as the case may be, Russian.

The Foundation [Hope and Homes for Children](#) assumed as a priority the support of children arriving from Ukrainian orphanages, by providing financial, logistical and human support in the process of accommodating and caring for the children. The charity has not received any financial support from the government, according to its reports published on the website - <https://hopeandhomes.ro/rapoartele-anuale/>. The organization acknowledged cooperation with Child Protection Directorates of Bucharest, Prahova, Brasov, Maramures, Iasi counties. It is focused mainly on children found in orphanages, aiming to close all orphanages in Romania until 2027. At least 210 Ukrainian children were supported with protective measures who arrived in Romania and were taken over by several Child Protection Directorates. The aid took the most diverse forms: transfer from the border, preparing the centers where they are accommodated (with beds, mattresses, duvets, pillows, linen), providing food, basic necessities, medicines and psychological support. For example, 43 children (aged

---

<sup>34</sup> Ordin nr. 31/2022 pentru aprobarea Procedurii de cooperare între autorități privind intrarea, înregistrarea, tranzitul, șederea, precum și asigurarea protecției drepturilor minorilor neînsoțiți care provin din zona conflictului armat din Ucraina - Order no. 31/2022 for the approval of the Cooperation Procedure between authorities regarding entry, registration, transit, stay, as well as ensuring the protection of the rights of unaccompanied minors coming from the armed conflict zone in Ukraine, published in the Official Gazette no. 266 of March 18, 2022, available at: <https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocument/252735> (only in Romanian).

---

between 7 months and 16 years) from a placement center in Dnipro, 9 social workers<sup>35</sup> and children, arrived at the Sighetu Marmatiei border crossing point after a full day journey. They were later transferred to a day care center and a family home in Iasi by the Foundation. In partnership with Child Protection Directorates from two counties, an intervention team of the Foundation was in permanent contact with the Hope and Homes for Children Ukraine team. Thus, the reception and transfer of children and continuously supports the capacity of institutional partners to accommodate and care for children could be ensured. They were supported with beds, mattresses, linen, provided 4 translators/day and supplemented the resources of food, clothing/shoes, hygiene products and medicine.

According to the representatives of the Save the Children<sup>36</sup>, interpretation of the notion of maternal assistants from Ukraine accompanying children in Romania, remains problematic mainly in the absence of a judicial decision issued for legal representation by Ukraine. In practice children were treated as being represented by an adult and allowed to stay in one apartment (de facto representation), while in front of other authorities, they had to be represented by the Child Protection Directorate's appointed representative (legal representation). Thus, legal representative of the child was in fact split between the legal, official one and the person who in fact acted as a maternal assistant for the respective child.

### **2.5.3. Safeguards for children placed in institutional care settings**

A specific request for information sent to ANPDCA on 26.05.2023. The answer is pending.

### **2.5.4. Access to local services and support**

A specific request for information sent to ANPDCA on 26.05.2023. The answer is pending.

The representatives of Terre des Hommes<sup>37</sup> mentioned improvements in 2023 in monitoring conducted by local child authorities, requiring extensive standards operating procedure among stakeholders, covering inter alia groups moved one city to another. The databases used by various authorities are not interoperable and sometimes, they

---

<sup>35</sup> Hope and Homes, <https://www.hopeandhomes.org/news/ukraine-orphanage-evacuation/>.

<sup>36</sup> Interview with representatives of Save the Children, 16.06.2023.

<sup>37</sup> Interview with representatives of Terre des Hommes, 16.06.2023.

had to be designed during the intervention (as it was noticed in case of implementation of Primero database).

## 2.6. Child-friendly information and means to ensure participation of children from Ukraine

### 2.6.1. Child friendly information

A specific request for information sent to ANPDCA on 26.05.2023. The answer is pending.

Several initiatives came from various civil society actors:

- UNHCR - [Information for children and young people arriving from Ukraine](https://help.unhcr.org/romania/information-for-children-and-young-people-arriving-from-ukraine/),<sup>38</sup>
- IOM Romania: IOM is producing and disseminating [child friendly information](https://www.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl486/files/documents/CP-Ukraine-Response-May-Jun-2022.pdf) pertaining to safety and essential information for children in Romania,<sup>39</sup>
- World Vision – Child friendly spaces and [trainings](https://www.wvi.org/stories/ukraine/equipping-teachers-and-partners-world-visions-child-friendly-spaces-romania) for teachers,<sup>40</sup>
- Save the Children Romania – [counselling centres](https://www.romania-insider.com/save-children-iasi-counseling-center-jul-2022),<sup>41</sup>
- Terre des Hommes – member of [Child Friendly Justice](https://www.tdh.ro/en/terre-des-hommes-romania-new-member-child-friendly-justice-european-network) European Network.<sup>42</sup>

### 2.6.2. Child participation

A specific request for information sent to ANPDCA on 26.05.2023. The answer is pending.

On 1<sup>st</sup> of June, the Senate of Romania organised the third annual edition of the event the [Senate of Children](https://www.rador.ro/2023/05/26/de-1-iunie-senatul-romaniei-invita-din-nou-copiii-la-petrecere/)<sup>43</sup> in partnership with UNICEF, Save the Children, World Vision,

---

<sup>38</sup> UNHCR, Information for children and young people arriving from Ukraine, <https://help.unhcr.org/romania/information-for-children-and-young-people-arriving-from-ukraine/>.

<sup>39</sup> IOM, Ukraine Response: Child Protection, 6 May 2022 - 14 June 2022, <https://www.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl486/files/documents/CP-Ukraine-Response-May-Jun-2022.pdf>.

<sup>40</sup> World Vision, Equipping teachers and partners in World Vision's child friendly spaces in Romania for Ukrainian refugee children, <https://www.wvi.org/stories/ukraine/equipping-teachers-and-partners-world-visions-child-friendly-spaces-romania>.

<sup>41</sup> Save the Children Romania opens counselling center for Ukrainian families in Iași, <https://www.romania-insider.com/save-children-iasi-counseling-center-jul-2022>.

<sup>42</sup> Terre des hommes Romania – new member of Child Friendly Justice European Network <https://www.tdh.ro/en/terre-des-hommes-romania-new-member-child-friendly-justice-european-network>.

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.rador.ro/2023/05/26/de-1-iunie-senatul-romaniei-invita-din-nou-copiii-la-petrecere/>.

---

Red Cross, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Mayoralty of Bucharest, as well as several Embassies present in Romania.

On 21 November 2022, on [International Day of the Rights of the Children](#)<sup>44</sup> one session with Romanian and Ukrainian children acting as ministries was organised by Romanian Government and UNICEF. The main suggestions were that refugee students from Ukraine studying in Romania would benefit if they switched to the curriculum applied in Romanian schools, instead of the program applied in Ukrainian schools (from the child Ministry of Education), and support for Ukrainian families in the context of major electricity supply problems in her country, caused by the war started by Russia (another student, representing the "Ministry of Energy" in the Ukrainian children's government).

On 31 May 2023, Save the Children Romania organized the 23rd edition of the National Forum of Children where children (including from Ukraine) asked authorities for an anonymous abuse reporting system and cases of bullying in schools, activities to prevent and combat addictions, the banning of classrooms games and betting around schools and the activation of anti-bullying groups in schools.

---

<sup>44</sup> Edupedu, Romanian curriculum for students from Ukraine and support for Ukrainian families left without electricity due to the war - proposals made by Ukrainian "ministers" of the Children's Government, on International Children's Rights Day - <https://www.edupedu.ro/curriculum-romanesc-pentru-elevii-veniti-din-ucraina-si-sprijin-pentru-familiiile-ucrainene-ramase-fara-energie-electrica-din-cauza-razboiului-propuneri-facute-de-ministri-ucr/>.

## 3. Access to social rights

### 3.1. Access to health care

#### 3.1.1. Scope of medical care for children fleeing Ukraine

**Table 4 – Scope of medical care for children**

Scope of medical care for children	Y/N	Reference / details
Only emergency care/essential treatment of illnesses (Article 13.2 TPD)		
Complete medical check -up / health screening		
Mental health screening (PTSD, depression, anxiety)		
Vaccinations for children		
Mental health / psychosocial support		
Children with disabilities and those with chronic illnesses have access to the medical care needed		

Source: [Type your source here.](#)

A specific request for information sent to the Ministry of Health on 26.05.2023. The answer to these questions is still pending.

#### 3.1.2. Challenges in practical provision

According to the [Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations for Children \(FONPC\)](#) report of February 2023<sup>45</sup>, the medical services in Romania are difficult to be accessed by refugees from Ukraine. The main problems are related to the lack of information, language barrier and difficulties in enrolling patients from Ukraine to family doctors in Romania. The fears of family doctors are related to the coverage of medical expenses, risk of being accused of malpractice in the case of an erroneous recommendation in the absence of files with the patients' medical history, led to increased pressure on the Emergency Reception Units (UPU) and to an overload of the 112 emergency system. The

<sup>45</sup> Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations for Children (FONPC), Launch of the report "Access to medical services in Romania for refugees from Ukraine" 22.02.2023, <https://helptohelpukraine.ro/2023/02/22/lansarea-raportului-accesul-la-serviciile-medicale-in-romania-pentru-refugiati-din-ucraina/>.

lack of funds for medicines and medical investigations, the limited time of family doctors for state-settled consultations, as well as the increasing financial pressure on the budget of the National Health Insurance House have made it difficult for refugees to access healthcare. Regarding the vaccination of children, the [Government report](#)<sup>46</sup> mentioned that 462 Ukrainian children were vaccinated against polio and another 444 with the first dose of Measles vaccine – containing vaccine first dose (MCVI) in 2022. However, according to [World Health Organization](#)<sup>47</sup>, vaccination of children remains a challenge, since it can only be done through the family doctor, and in the situation where registration is not possible, it prevents vaccination (reportedly cases registered in Vâlcea county, mentioned by the [Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations for Children](#))<sup>48</sup>.

According to the [Save the Children analysis](#)<sup>49</sup>, the needs that Ukrainian families are firstly related to o medical costs and access to medical services (62%), which means, concretely, the procurement of medicines, psychosocial support for children and adults, medical protection of children with medical conditions, support for registering children with the family doctor, offering counselling and accompaniment at medical institutions. With regard to access to health services, [UNICEF](#)<sup>50</sup> mentioned that access to essential services including vaccination and life-saving medicines, especially those for people and children with disabilities were provided in order to cater the most immediate needs. Mother-baby spaces were established to provide safe spaces for breastfeeding and childcare in Blue Dots as well as transit and placement centres. In 2022, around 95,000 parents/child guardians were reached with useful health information, including on infant and young child feeding. Over 16,000 Ukrainian children and women accessed primary health care through such supported mechanisms.

---

<sup>46</sup> Chancellery of Prime Minister, Romania's Response to the Ukrainian Refugee Crisis, 13.01.2023, <https://protectieucraina.gov.ro/1/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/ANNUAL-STATUS-REPORT-ROMANIA-DEC-2022-2-1-1.pdf>.

<sup>47</sup> World Health Organization, Understanding the obstacles faced by Ukrainian refugees in Romania, 17.01.2023, <https://www.who.int/europe/news/item/17-01-2023-understanding-the-obstacles-faced-by-ukrainian-refugees-in-romania>.

<sup>48</sup> Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations for Children (FONPC), Launch of the report "Access to medical services in Romania for refugees from Ukraine" 22.02.2023, <https://helptohelpukraine.ro/2023/02/22/lansarea-raportului-accesul-la-servicii-medicale-in-romania-pentru-refugiatii-din-ucraina/>.

<sup>49</sup> Save the Children, Analysis - Two thirds of families with children from Ukraine in Romania need access to medical services. Ukrainian children acutely feel the fear of war, even from afar, and want to be able to return to their homes, <https://www.salvaticopiii.ro/sci-ro/media/Documente/ANALIZA-Salvati-Copiii-Familii-si-copii-din-Ucraina.pdf>.

<sup>50</sup> UNICEF, UNICEF's Ukraine refugee response in 2022, 30.12.2022, <https://www.unicef.org/romania/stories/unicefs-ukraine-refugee-response-2022>.



### 3.1.3. Mental health and psychosocial support for children fleeing Ukraine

According to Terre des Hommes, a brief psychological intervention can be delivered by refugee peers, cultural mediators and third country nationals to target issues commonly faced by migrants such as depression, anxiety and stress. In April 2023, based on identified needs, a new project STEP IN<sup>51</sup> has been launched to strengthen the capacity of non-mental health and psychosocial support professionals to address the basic mental health needs of migrant populations by implementing Problem Management+.

According to [World Health Organization](#)<sup>52</sup> and [World Vision Romania](#)<sup>53</sup>, provision of mental health specialists and cultural mediators or community-based activities could overcome the lack of psychologists and it would be beneficial for Ukrainian mental health specialists in order to have access to various other information such as supervision or intervention groups. It was reported an increase in the number of beneficiaries accessing MHPSS services when provided by Ukrainian specialists was recorded, sometimes due to the fact that the person providing the service was part of the community<sup>54</sup>.

A similar approach was reported also by [JRS Romania](#)<sup>55</sup>, with community based projects and work with Ukrainian psychologists. The practical holistic approach encourages the framing of mental health and psychological support within the other services they offer, be it cash assistance, housing, etc. Multidisciplinary teams are used providing GBV services, where there is a psychologist, a social worker and a lawyer, about services for people with special needs who can benefit from art therapy and other support activities; also, JRS started to offer services to people with addictions and to set up a support group like Alcoholics Anonymous and has introduced to the group the Educational Hubs services in Romanian schools where Ukrainian mental health specialists provide specialised services to children with these needs.

---

<sup>51</sup> Terre des Homme, <https://www.tdh.ro/en/step-support-through-ethno-psychosocial-approaches-and-pm-migrants> .

<sup>52</sup> World Health Organization, quoted in Romania Mental Health and Psychological Support SubWorking Group – Minute of the Meeting, 2023.02.03, <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/100453>.

<sup>53</sup> World Vision, <https://www.wvi.org/publications/ukraine/rapid-needs-assessment-ukrainian-refugee-children-and-families-constantia>.

<sup>54</sup> <https://www.who.int/europe/news/item/17-01-2023-understanding-the-obstacles-faced-by-ukrainian-refugees-in-romania>.

<sup>55</sup> Jesuit Refugee Service Romania, quoted in Romania Romania Mental Health and Psychological Support SubWorking Group – Minute of the Meeting, 2023,.04.07, <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/100677>.

---

According to [Medicines du Monde](#)<sup>56</sup>, psychologists working with Ukrainian refugees encountered a highly traumatic nature of their work, as they themselves are among those who have suffered from the war, and they need additional intervention groups for themselves. Thus, psychological services should be provided also in a more flexible way, through a mobile unit with the help of Ukrainian psychologists. In the same time, there were reports on many communities lacking specialised support, while the provision of services had to be adapted in those specific locations by organising mobile teams, especially for people who had to change their housing in the context of ending of the governmental programme in April 2023, noticing also that more Ukrainian refugees are being referred with more serious psychiatric conditions, according to [Estuar foundation](#)<sup>57</sup>.

According to [World Health Organization](#)<sup>58</sup>, one legislative proposal for granting Licence Waiver to Ukrainian psychologists who can be employed as psychologists to provide psychological services to Ukrainians was communicated to the Government and to the College of Psychologists for a point of view. The conditions for granting this licence are that the psychologist is employed by an International Organisation or NGO for a fixed period of time, while the College of Psychologists should approve documentation certifying qualifications.

## 3.2. Access to education

### 3.2.1. Types of schooling

The schooling provided by the state includes both authorized public and private schools where Ukrainian children can be enrolled as students or audients (listeners), at the pre-university level. Also, extracurricular activities could be organised by the same schools, with registration of children as students or audients (in practice, this was the space for Educational Hubs set up in few cities of Romania). Apart from these schoolings, the authorities have recognised within the newly adopted mechanism for financial allowances as type of educational activities the ones offered by other institutions/organizations, such as hubs or educational centers organized in educational units by local public administration authorities or non-governmental organizations in areas with a large number of beneficiaries of the Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382,

---

<sup>56</sup> Medicines du Monde, quoted in Romania Romania Mental Health and Psychological Support SubWorking Group – Minute of the Meeting, 2023.02.03, <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/100453>.

<sup>57</sup> Estuar Foundation quoted in Romania Romania Mental Health and Psychological Support SubWorking Group – Minute of the Meeting, 2022.11.25, <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/100451>.

<sup>58</sup> World Health Organization, quoted in Romania Mental Health and Psychological Support SubWorking Group – Minute of the Meeting 2022.12.09, <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/100452>.

Blue Dot centers, children's palaces and clubs, community lifelong learning centers, preschool educational centers, art schools or cultural centers.<sup>59</sup>

The UN InterAgency reported also support continues to be provided with a view to ensure that all Ukrainian refugee children can access quality education services, through diversified learning pathways including or combining inclusion into Romanian schools, online learning, special classes and after-school activities offering learning support ('learning hubs') facilitated by Ukrainian-speaking educators or operating in a third language (e.g. English), and facilitating increasingly access to Romanian language classes to prepare integration in Romanian schools. RRP partners continue to promote access primarily to classroom-type education modalities that encourage face-to-face learning and personal interactions, as well as to language courses in Romanian, MHPSS and recreational activities to support their integration, and to facilitate access to online learning when necessary.<sup>60</sup>

**Table 5 – Enrolment and attendance of children fleeing Ukraine**

Types of schooling		Number of children enrolled	Number of children attending	Source
National formal educational system	Children in nursery	6,256	n/a	Ministry of Education
	Children in primary education	17,085	n/a	
	Children in secondary education		n/a	
Physical attendance of Ukrainian led school / educational setting			7,715	n/a
Online attendance of Ukrainian led school / educational setting			n/a	n/a

Source: Ministry of Education.

<sup>59</sup> Decision no. 368 of April 26, 2023 for establishing the amount, conditions and mechanism for granting lump sums according to the Government Emergency Ordinance no. 15/2022 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, published in the Official Gazetted no. 354 of 26 April 2023, available at: <https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/267398>.

<sup>60</sup> Ukraine Situation Inter-Agency Romania Update April 2023, <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/100727>.

### 3.2.2. Support to integration in the formal educational system

According to the [Romanian Government](#)<sup>61</sup>, the main legislative amendments adopted in 2022 aimed at addressing the practical barriers preventing access to education for asylum-seeking and refugee children:

- the Methodology for the certification of pre-university studies for foreigners who have obtained international protection in Romania and who do not have documents proving their studies or who, for objective reasons, do not fall under the current legal provisions in the field of recognition and attestation of studies of foreigners in Romania, a legislation offering both the possibility to continue education and to facilitate access to the labour market;
- the revision of the legal framework regulating the schooling, as well as the organization and the conduct of the Romanian initiation course for children who have acquired a form of international protection or a right of residence in Romania, strengthened by adopting a new methodology and a new procedure for the elaboration, approval and distribution of syllabi and textbooks for the Romanian language initiation course for children (similarly for adults).

Also, the Ukrainian displaced children and young people have access to kindergartens and schools under the same conditions as the Romanian children.<sup>62</sup> In order to facilitate the integration of Ukrainian children into the Romanian education system, they have access to Romanian language initiation courses and extra-curricular activities in and out of school through school inspectorates. In addition, they benefit from scholarships, accommodation in boarding schools, transport, medical assistance in case of emergency, basic personal items and counselling and psychological support. All costs related to access to education in public schools and kindergartens are covered from the Romanian State budget.

Also, in order to remove possible obstacles to the transition from lower to upper secondary education, Ukrainian students have been exempted from sitting the national examination at the end of the 8th grade. In terms of facilitating the access of displaced Ukrainian students to higher education, [special measures](#) have Ukrainian children are

---

<sup>61</sup> Chancellery of the Prime-Minister, Report, Romania Response to the humanitarian crisis of refugees, October 2022, on the file with the author [the document was further updated].

<sup>62</sup> Ordonanță de Urgență nr. 15/27.02.2022 privind acordarea de sprijin și asistență umanitară de către statul român cetățenilor străini sau apatrizilor aflați în situații deosebite/proveniți din zona conflictului armat din Ucraina, Emergency Ordinance no. 15 / 27.02.2022 on the provision 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 – available at: <https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocument/251954> (only in Romanian).

eligible for all Ministry of Education social support programmes<sup>63</sup> been adopted to support Romanian universities to allow academic mobility during the academic year, as well as the provision of scholarships, counselling and psycho-pedagogical assistance, so that Ukrainian students can continue their studies in Romanian State universities (within English or Romanian university programmes) under the same conditions as the Romanian students.

The special measures include exemption from admission rules and from taxes. If the student or doctoral student cannot prove the studies completed through documents issued by the higher education institution he previously attended in Ukraine, the higher education institution in Romania evaluates, based on its own criteria and in compliance with good practices international, learning outcomes, competences and skills and decides on the recognition and award of transferable study credits. The student or doctoral student will present to the institution of higher education in Romania, before the completion of the studies, the diplomas that allowed him access to the cycle of studies in which he was enrolled. In the academic years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, academic mobility for citizens of third countries of the European Union, who come from higher education institutions recognized in Ukraine, is carried out with a fee as a result of the student's approach, with the agreement of the receiving institution. Students, citizens of Ukraine, can benefit from funding from the state budget or other sources.

Several training sessions “[Teaching and learning in difficult times](#)” for both Romanian and Ukrainian teachers were organised by the British Council, in partnership with UNICEF and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) with more than 200 participants<sup>64</sup>. The course is primarily aimed at Romanian teachers who teach Ukrainian refugee pupils, and at Ukrainian teachers who are currently working in Romania. Through specialised workshops, the participants were introduced to topics such as managing distressed behaviors of students who have experienced the trauma of war, will be supported to learn how to recognize the emotional problems of refugee children and how to make their classroom more welcoming for all students.

---

<sup>63</sup> Ordin nr. 3325/2022 privind completarea anexei la Ordinul ministrului educației nr. 5.140/2019 pentru aprobarea Metodologiei privind mobilitatea academică a studenților - Order no. 3325/2022 regarding the completion of the annex to the Order of the Minister of Education no. 5.140/2019 for the approval of the Methodology regarding the academic mobility of students, published in the Official Gazette no. 209 of 03.03.2022, available only in Romanian at:  
[https://www.edu.ro/sites/default/files/fi%C8%99iere/Minister/2022/RO\\_UA/OME\\_3325\\_02\\_03\\_2022\\_RO\\_UA.pdf](https://www.edu.ro/sites/default/files/fi%C8%99iere/Minister/2022/RO_UA/OME_3325_02_03_2022_RO_UA.pdf).

<sup>64</sup> <https://www.unicef.org/romania/press-releases/romanian-and-ukrainian-teachers-united-education-refugee-pupils-romania>.

---

On 26 April, the Government approved a [decision](#) on the mechanism of financial support for Ukrainians holding temporary protection in Romania,<sup>65</sup> replacing the previous reimbursement system. Through this programme, starting with the second month of application, financial assistance provided to all family members requires enrolment of children in any of a variety of schools or educational programs, as audients, students or in alternative education programmes organised by non-governmental organizations; the last one, depends largely on funding available, according to [JRS Romania](#), while [Terre des Hommes](#)<sup>66</sup> expressed concerns of what is defined as an educational program; for example, the NGO prepared an after school program using the Ukrainian curricula, that will be both recreational and educational – the question is if such programs are covered by those envisioned by the Ministry of Education.

According to the representatives of Save the Children, most of the parents were reluctant to enrol their children into Romanian education system<sup>67</sup>, while the system as such proved to be unable to keep medium standards of education; this was mainly the reason why some non governmental organizations have not supported the efforts of the authorities, and this issue became relevant mainly after the emergency phase of intervention.

Activities developed by various organisations:

- World Vision Romania - [Educational information hub for Ukrainian refugees](#)<sup>68</sup>
- Junior Achievement Europe and UNICEF – [improving skills and mindset](#) needed to build successful communities.<sup>69</sup>
- University of West of Timisoara - [Intensive Romanian language courses for refugee students and researchers from Ukraine](#).<sup>70</sup>
- Save the Children – [complex educational services for Ukrainian children](#).<sup>71</sup>

---

<sup>65</sup> Decision no. 368 of April 26, 2023 for establishing the amount, conditions and mechanism for granting lump sums according to the Government Emergency Ordinance no. 15/2022 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, published in the Official Gazetted no. 354 of 26 April 2023, available at: <https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/267398> .

<sup>66</sup> <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/101044>.

<sup>67</sup> Interview with representatives of Save the Children on 16.06.2023.

<sup>68</sup> <https://www.edupedu.ro/cluburi-de-lectura-jocuri-excursii-sprijin-material-si-educational-pentru-copiii-refugiati-din-ucraina-oferite-de-centrele-happy-bubble-ale-world-vision-romania-lista-centrelor-cu-adresa-progra/> .

<sup>69</sup> <https://www.edupedu.ro/parteneriat-pentru-sprijinul-tinerilor-afectati-de-razboiul-din-ucraina-intre-unicef-si-junior-achievement-europe/> .

<sup>70</sup> <https://www.edupedu.ro/universitatea-de-vest-din-timisoara-uvt-organizeaza-cursuri-intensive-de-limba-romana-pentru-studentii-si-cercetatorii-refugiati-din-ucraina/> .

<sup>71</sup> Save the Children Romania, <https://www.salvaticopiii.ro/ce-facem/protectie/protectia-copiiilor-refugiati/sprijin-pentru-ucraina> .

- Terre des Hommes - [center equipped with 3D technology](#), for creation and learning through play, especially for children and young people (7-18 years old).<sup>72</sup>

### 3.2.3. Data on drop outs and NEETs (not in education, employment, or training)

*The response received from the Ministry of Education did not include any reference to this subject.*

According to the [National Youth Foundation in Romania](#)<sup>73</sup>, there are several issues of interest for adolescents:

- Youth need accessible language courses as language is an overarching need that affects everything in youth's lives; they need to learn Romanian, and some mentioned the need for English to access specific parts of the labour market, through accessible and flexible modalities.
- Youth need income not economic support is the most important need identified by youth. If their economic needs are not met, youth may have no choice but to return to Ukraine before it is safe to do so. Several barriers exist to accessing economic opportunities including the lack of language skills and of predictable and stable legal status, low wages, the need for professional experience, and the absence of suitable childcare.
- Youth need social connections and emotional support most youth find emotional support for their mental health and wellbeing through social connections with friends and family, engaging in sports or other recreational activities, and joining social gatherings. However, friends and family are dispersed. Becoming a refugee disrupted and reduced youth's social circles and altered the ways in which youth socialise. The need for social connections and emotional support outside of the home is strong, and youth that are able to access youth centres find them to be important to addressing these need.

---

<sup>72</sup> Terre des Hommes Romania, <https://tdh.ro/ro/sprijin-3d-copiii-romani-si-ucraineni-se-pregatesc-impreama-pentru-viitor>.

<sup>73</sup> National Youth Foundation, Hope and uncertainty: A needs assessment of Ukrainian youth refugees in Romania and Moldova, Executive Summary — April 2023, <https://www.nrc.no/globalassets/pdf/reports/hope-and-uncertainty/executive-summary-hope-and-uncertainty-a-needs-assessment-of-ukrainian-youth-refugees-in-romania-and-moldova.pdf>.

---

### 3.3. Access to social welfare – forms of social assistance related to children

According to the National Agency for Payments and Social Inspection<sup>74</sup>, the social benefits can be granted solely to those holding international protection (refugee status or subsidiary protection). Moreover, these social benefits may be provided if the foreigners or stateless persons do have a domicile or residence in Romania, according to the legislation. Therefore, in the absence of any other regulations, the state allowance cannot be granted to other categories than the ones expressly mentioned by the laws. The answer is making reference inter alia to the provision of article 133 alin. (1) let. d) of the [Law 122/2006 on asylum in Romania](#)<sup>75</sup>, providing that “throughout the duration of the temporary protection, the beneficiaries of this form of protection enjoy the following rights: [...] to benefit, upon request, from the assistance necessary for maintenance, in the situation where they do not have the necessary material means”. Based on this interpretation, the child allowances are not provided to any child coming from Ukraine, except for those having a form of protection (refugee status or subsidiary protection), as well as being registered as asylum-seeker, according to the representatives of Save the Children and Terre des Hommes.

There are two main forms of social assistance provided to children, all of them mentioning qualification of foreigners to receive them, under some conditions. They are:

- **Support granted to families with low incomes:** Social aid, emergency aid, the heating aid, Allowance for family support and
- **Family policies:** State allowance for children, Foster care allowance, the allowance for child rearing and the insertion incentive, International Protection Aids as part of the general regime of social assistance, applied mainly based on the integration (Law on asylum)<sup>76</sup>. Temporary protection documents holders were not entitled to many of these forms of social assistance (for details see annex).

---

<sup>74</sup> Answer provided by the National Agency for Payments and Social Inspection by email on 16.06.2023.

<sup>75</sup> Legea nr. 122/2006 privind azilul in Romania - Law 122/2006 on asylum in Romania, published in Official Gazette no. 428 of 18 May 2006, available at: <https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocument/71808> (only in Romanian).

<sup>76</sup> Legea nr. 122/2006 privind azilul in Romania - Law 122/2006 on asylum in Romania, published in Official Gazette no. 428 of 18 May 2006, available at: <https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocument/71808> (only in Romanian).



## 4. Additional legal and practical barriers and challenges

### 4.1. General challenges

According to the representatives of Save the Children<sup>77</sup> and Jesuit Refugee Service<sup>78</sup>, the most successful cases were registered in small communities, while the challenges were numerous in larger communities (as in Bucharest or Constanta). The representatives of Save the Children added that there is a clear need for trainings on safeguarding and it should be perceived as an internal commitment and not only as an external one. Thus, at the level of school it could be useful to create systems to respond to such needs. Also, they mentioned delays in communication of relevant data among stakeholders, in the absence of a clear and efficient mechanism for data communication, leading to inaccurate data and impossibility of designing and planning interventions.

According to the representatives of Terre des Hommes<sup>79</sup>, lack of regulations, complete legislative framework played a key role, with necessity of gradual intervention; this was combined with non-application of the legislative framework on aliens or integration. In practice, some of the social workers have conducted superficial monitoring looking for issues related to meals and accommodation, without considering any risk of abuse that could be prevented or investigated; no guarantees could be offered that children were not abused, since the real monitoring could not be conducted in all cases, in many instances due to the language barrier.

### 4.2. Challenges for children at multiple risk/disadvantage

The representatives of Save the Children<sup>80</sup> stated that the main risk is not related to inclusion in a certain category that is legally more protected, but merely on the risk the children may face, in the context where many parents realised that they have parental

---

<sup>77</sup> Interview with Save the Children representatives, 16.06.2023.

<sup>78</sup> Interview with Jesuit Refugee Service representative, 14.06.2023.

<sup>79</sup> Interview with Terre des Hommes representatives, 16.06.2023.

<sup>80</sup> Interview with Save the Children representatives, 16.06.2023.

---

obligations alone, without the other parent; thus, the adolescents were a category of risk, and most of the programmes of assistance did not address their specific needs.

The practice at the local level is different, while the law provides only for acceptance of documents issued in Romania, there were reportedly cases in some cities (Iasi) where the local authorities have accepted such documents issued in Ukrainian and further translated in Romanian, in order to provide due registration to the financial support programme provided by the government.

## 5. Policies in place

### 5.1. Dedicated action plan and/or integrated measures

Two main strategic documents were applicable for assistance of persons coming from Ukraine. The first one is the [National Plan of Measures](#)<sup>81</sup> regarding the protection and inclusion of displaced persons from Ukraine, beneficiaries of temporary protection in Romania adopted on 30 of June 2022, covering the area of children and youth. In the same time, the [National Strategy on Migration](#) for 2021-2024<sup>82</sup> has two relevant objectives: (C) Strengthening the response capacity of the Romanian state in the face of an influx of immigrants at the border of the national territory the the specific objective (B4) Consolidation of the social integration mechanism of persons who have acquired a form of protection in Romania and other third country nationals.

According to the National Anti-Trafficking Agency, at the end of 2022, the National Action Plan on the prevention of exploitation, sexual abuse and the risks associated with human trafficking<sup>83</sup> was adopted within the framework of the inter-institutional intersectoral strategic coordination committee of the fight against human trafficking, established at the level of the Prime Minister's Chancellery to deal with Ukrainian

---

<sup>81</sup> Ordonanță de Urgență nr. 100/2022 privind implementarea Planului național de măsuri cu privire la protecția și incluziunea a persoanelor strămutate din Ucraina, beneficiare de protecție temporară în România, precum și pentru modificarea și completarea unor acte normative - Emergency Ordinance no. 100/30.06.2022 on the implementation of the National Plan of Measures on the Protection and Inclusion of Displaced Persons from Ukraine, Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection in Romania, as well as for amending and supplementing some normative acts, Official Gazette no. 653/30.06.2022, available at: <https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocument/256915>.

<sup>82</sup> Hotărâre nr. 884/2021 pentru aprobarea Strategiei naționale privind imigrația pentru perioada 2021-2024, a Planului de acțiune pe perioada 2021-2022 pentru implementarea Strategiei naționale privind imigrația pentru perioada 2021-2024, precum și pentru modificarea Hotărârii Guvernului nr. 572/2008 privind constituirea Grupului de coordonare a implementării Strategiei naționale privind imigrația - DECISION no. 884 of August 19, 2021 for the approval of the National Strategy on Immigration for the period 2021-2024, the Action Plan for the period 2021-2022 for the implementation of the National Strategy on Immigration for the period 2021-2024, as well as for the amendment of Government Decision no. 572/2008 regarding the establishment of the Coordination Group for the implementation of the National Immigration Strategy, published in Official Gazette no. 839 of 02 September 2021, <https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocumentAfis/245959>.

<sup>83</sup> Decizia nr. 461/2022 privind constituirea Grupului de lucru pentru prevenirea exploataării sexuale, abuzului și a riscurilor asociate traficului de persoane, destinat persoanelor strămutate din Ucraina, beneficiare de protecție temporară în România - Decision no. 461 of September 7, 2022 regarding the establishment of the Working Group for the prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and the risks associated with human trafficking, intended for displaced persons from Ukraine, beneficiaries of temporary protection in Romania, published in the Official Gazette no. 883 of 07 September 2022, available at: <https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocument/259135>.

---

citizens, beneficiaries of temporary protection in Romania. The plan outlines the specific responsibilities of institutions with competences in the field of combating and preventing human trafficking and protecting victims of human trafficking, placing the actions and measures taken in the communities of Ukrainians, beneficiaries of temporary protection on the territory of Romania.

At the level of coordination structure for preparedness and response, the Romanian Government established a high-level decision-making Task-Force<sup>84</sup>, coordinated by the Prime Minister, an operational Task-force, called the “Ukraine Commission” to monitor the activities of the ministries involved in the management of the influx of refugees in all areas of intervention, led by the Chief of Prime Minister’s Chancellery and the Humanitarian Assistance Strategic Coordination Group was set up at the level of the Prime Minister’s Chancellery, led by a Counsellor of state to ensure the strategic framework of humanitarian response and to facilitate the inter-agency cooperation among national, European, and international partners.

Also, at the level of ministries, several working groups were set up aiming to design the National Response Plan to the management of the refugee humanitarian crisis. The working group on Children and Youth<sup>85</sup> was coordinated by the president and two experts of the National Authority for the Protection of Child Rights and Adoption, and included representatives of the Prime Minister's Chancellery, the Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities, the Department for Emergency Situations within the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Labor and Social Solidarity as well as two representatives of non-governmental organizations active in the field of child protection and a youth representative.

## 5.2. European Child Guarantee

The action plan for the implementation of the “Guarantee for children” has become part to the National strategy for protection and promotion of children's rights "protected children, safe Romania" 2022-2027 which is still a draft. The National Strategy for protection and promotion of children’s rights has incorporated (not clear if fully) and adapted actions provided in the initial NAP for the implementation of the child guarantee, the main difference being that it is valid until 2027, not until 2030. It should

---

<sup>84</sup> Chancellery of the Prime Minister of Romania, Romania’s Response to the Humanitarian Refugees’ Crisis, April 14, 2022 [https://gov.ro/fisiere/pagini\\_fisiere/14.04.2022\\_-\\_ROMANIA%E2%80%99S\\_RESPONSE\\_TO\\_THE\\_HUMANITARIAN\\_REFUGEES%E2%80%99\\_CRISIS-SUMMARY\\_COUNTRY\\_REPORT.pdf](https://gov.ro/fisiere/pagini_fisiere/14.04.2022_-_ROMANIA%E2%80%99S_RESPONSE_TO_THE_HUMANITARIAN_REFUGEES%E2%80%99_CRISIS-SUMMARY_COUNTRY_REPORT.pdf) .

<sup>85</sup> National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of the Child and Adoptions, 30.03.2022, <https://copii.gov.ro/1/solutii-pentru-copiii-si-tinerii-ucarineni/>.

be mentioned that the draft National Strategy “Protected children, safe Romania” has only few references to the principles included of the child guarantee, but it does not specifically mention that it is the NAP for the child guarantee. Both the Strategy and its [operational plan](#)<sup>86</sup> revised in November 2022 do not include any measures to address children fleeing Ukraine (it has only one reference to 2.2.4. provision of a package of integrated services to children from families of immigrants from conflict zones and asylum seekers) and there is no other version published for consultations. On 29 April 2022, the Minister of Family, Youth and Equality of Chances [stated](#)<sup>87</sup> that the National Plan of Action should be adapted to the actual context generated by the armed conflict in Ukraine and a separate chapter of the document will be dedicated to the measures we take to support Ukrainian children who arrive in Romania; in February 2023, the minister had discussions with representatives of the European Commission about the Guarantee for Children, however, there is no official information on the status of the document.

### 5.3. Budget

The [substantiation note](#) to the National Plan of measures<sup>88</sup> covering protection and inclusion of displaced persons from Ukraine, beneficiaries of temporary protection in Romania, as well as for the modification and completion of some normative acts provided for estimated that the measures in the area of children and youth value RON24.245.393 (around €5.000.000).

There is no public document explaining if and how this amount of money has been used/exhausted, not the total budget allocated for displaced children from Ukraine.

---

<sup>86</sup> Operational plan for the implementation of the National Strategy for the protection and promotion of children's rights "Protected children, safe Romania" 2022 – 2027, <https://mfamilie.gov.ro/docs/20220506-PROIECT-HG-Anexa-nr.2PO-strategie-copil.pdf>.

<sup>87</sup> National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of the Child and Adoptions, Action plan for the implementation of the "Children's Guarantee", 29.04.2022, <https://copii.gov.ro/1/plan-de-actiune-pentru-implementarea-garantieii-pentru-copii/>.

<sup>88</sup> Substantiation Note - Emergency Ordinance regarding the implementation of the National Plan of measures intended for the protection and inclusion measures of persons displaced from Ukraine, beneficiaries of temporary protection in Romania, as well as for the modification and completion of some normative acts <https://www.ces.ro/newlib/PDF/proiecte/2022/OUG-Plan-national-de-masuri-Ucraina.pdf>.

---

## Annex 1 – Research and data

**Table 6 – Research on experiences of children fleeing Ukraine**

Surveys or research studies on experiences of children fleeing Ukraine	
Name/title	
Main findings (max. 1000 chars)	
Highlight any findings re. gender, age, disability and diverse characteristics	
Methodology (for surveys/polls indicate sample size and sample method)	
Source	

No relevant example identified with notably only two researches published in 2023:

- UNICEF - Survey regarding the social cohesion in the context of Ukrainian crisis, January 2023.<sup>89</sup>

- National Youth Foundation – Romania, Hope and uncertainty: A needs assessment of Ukrainian youth refugees in Romania and Moldova.<sup>90</sup>

**Table 7 – Research on experiences of children fleeing Ukraine**

Surveys or research studies on experiences of children fleeing Ukraine	
Name/title	
Main findings (max. 1000 chars)	
Highlight any findings re. gender, age,	

<sup>89</sup> <https://www.unicef.org/romania/reports/survey-regarding-social-cohesion-context-ukrainian-crisis> .

<sup>90</sup> <https://www.nrc.no/resources/reports/hope-and-uncertainty/>.

disability and diverse characteristics.	
Methodology (for surveys/polls indicate sample size and sample method)	
Source	

---

## Annex 2 - Promising practices

**Table 8 – Promising practice # 1**

<b>Promising programme / practices aimed at providing protection and support to displaced children fleeing the war in Ukraine</b>	
Name/title	
Implementing body (public authority, CSO etc)	
Funding body	
Reference in EN and original language (incl. URL, where available)	
Start / end date or ongoing	
Main target group	
Scope (local/regional/national)	
Objectives and outputs	
Brief description (max. 1000 chars)	
Highlight key elements of the programme/practice which makes it promising (sustainability, measurable impact etc) (max. 500 chars)	
Monitoring and evaluation and the bodies involved	

**Table 9 – Promising practice # 2**

<b>Promising programme / practices aimed at providing protection and support to displaced children fleeing the war in Ukraine</b>	
Name/title	
Implementing body (public authority, CSO etc)	



Funding body	
Reference in EN and original language (incl. URL, where available)	
Start / end date or ongoing	
Main target group	
Scope (local/regional/national)	
Objectives and outputs	
Brief description (max. 1000 chars)	
Highlight key elements of the programme/practice which makes it promising (sustainability, measurable impact ect) (max. 500 chars)	
Monitoring and evaluation and the bodies involved	

### UNICEF Blue Dots

**The Blue Dots** include child-friendly spaces offering integrated services including family reunification and restoring family links, information and counselling desks, registration of the most vulnerable, spaces dedicated to mothers and babies/ young children, psychological therapy and first aid on hygiene, health and nutrition, as well as basic legal advice, referral services for cases of violence or health conditions, etc. Blankets, warm clothes, sanitary kits, toys, as well as hygiene products and baby food are available in the Blue Dots.

In the 8 months since the beginning of the war, over 170.000 children and women had access to UNICEF-supported safe spaces, protection and support hubs, including Blue Dots functioning in Romania.

Services provided to refugee children and their families:

1. **Identification and referral of children at risk:** Provide in-depth child protection assessment to identify needs for a) immediate referral to statutory child protection structures/services (children at risk of separation, unaccompanied or separated children) or b) on-site support/ assistance to those in need. When specific vulnerabilities or risks/concerns are detected, children and families are
-

referred to the social worker of the Blue Dot for further assessment; to be complemented by 'digital blue dots' support.

2. **Legal aid and counselling:** Provide these services to children and families, as well as others with specific needs, on registration, documentation, birth registration, asylum, family reunification and other procedures.
3. **Information and advice desks:** Inform on available services. Provision of Wi-Fi connectivity and charging stations. Provide information boards, screens for video screening, or tablets.
4. **Psychosocial support:** Ensure that mothers and children in distress have access to psychological first aid and focused support provided by psychologists. Families can have access to inclusive activities that support recovery, resilience and psychological well-being of children and their parents.
5. **Mother and Child friendly spaces:** Ensure children of all ages can have access to child-friendly spaces, allowing rest and play, separate spaces and specific interventions for adolescent girls and boys. Access to group activities for child well-being. Provide mothers with access to dedicated mother and baby/toddler spaces, for breastfeeding, baby care and hygiene, access to safe drinking water for formula etc.

### **Terre des Hommes RIF – Resilience Innovation Facility**

A Resilience Innovation Facilities (RIF) is a digital innovation space. Designed to be safe, inclusive and contextually responsive, IT tools, services, and community connections are built for and with children and youth affected by migration. As a protection imperative, RIFs ensure that their rights are respected and safeguarded. They aim to strengthen their agency, empowerment, and resilience by providing access to resources, tools, learning, activities, and experiences that enable them to seize development opportunities and unleash their own potential.

In Romania, the 2 active RIFs, in Brasov and Bucharest, are addressing children between 7 and 18 years old. The technology available at both sites counts:

- 6 Original Prusa i3 MK3S+ 3D printers
- A Revopoint POP Advanced Kit portable 3D scanner
- 6 Dell G15 Dell laptops
- 4 Wacom Intuos S graphic tablets
- A Roland VersaStudio GS2-24 vinyl plotter
- A Plotter Laser CO2 40W MAX 40x40cm + Air Assist + Red Point
- A Secabo TC7 LITE hot press
- A Brother Innov-is F440 embroidery machine
- An Epson L810 sublimation printer
- 12 Arduino Uno Start Kits
- 1 Arduino Uno Start Kit – 15 projects

The RIF's axes of intervention are:

- A. **Protection and psychosocial well-being**

- **Goal:** To enable children and youth affected by migration to feel safe, connected, worthy and recognized, to feel respected, and to make them believe in their future and have hope.
  - Methodologies supporting agency and empowerment for psychosocial resilience of cross-cutting skills supporting the 6 pillars;
  - Acquisition of child and youth well-being (taking responsibility, building trust, communication, collaboration, managing emotions, creative thinking);
  - Child and Youth Led Participatory Action Research
- B. Technological and Digital Inclusion**
- **Goal:** Reduce the technology and digital divide among children and youth affected by migration.
  - Access to digital technology, resources and learning;
  - Access to digital services and tools for safer mobility;
  - Digital inclusion (Information, knowledge and skills);
  - Digital leadership (connection to local and global networks)
- C. Education and Vocational Training**
- **Goal:** Acquisition of new skills and knowledge to support the development and employability of children and youth affected by migration.
  - Participatory teaching methods (Build to Think, Build to Learn);
  - Learner-centered, problem-solving and technology-based instructional models;
  - Formal, informal and tertiary education, including open studies certificates;
  - Vocational training
- D. Innovation & Entrepreneurship**
- **Goal:** Support bottom-up design, innovation and entrepreneurship to enable children and youth affected by migration to develop their own solutions and to integrate socio-economically.
  - Human-centered social innovation for children and youth as co-creators, including design thinking methodologies;
  - (Social) Entrepreneurship education and support, including incubation and acceleration of projects led by children and youth;
  - Innovation challenges and awards

The eLiberare Association developed and presented "Kompas", the first Intervention Model in Romania for reducing the risk of human trafficking and sexual exploitation among war refugees and the first Guide for educating children and adolescents in Ukrainian refugee communities to protect themselves from human traffickers, "The Kozak Family learn to keep safe".

The materials were prepared within the framework of the "Kompas" programme, running since May 2022, for the prevention of human trafficking within the Ukrainian refugee community in Romania. Interventions took place in refugee communities in Alba, Bucharest, Suceava, Dolj, Botoşani, Braşov, Tulcea, Galaţi, Neamţ, Timiş, Oradea, Dâmboviţa, Vâlcea, Iaşi, Sibiu, Alba-Iulia. eLiberare included Ukrainian experts in the team who made a decisive contribution and implemented the model in collaboration with several NGOs in Romania: LOGS-Grup de Iniţiative Sociale in Timişoara, People to People Foundation in Oradea, IZA Association in Tulcea, ASSOC in Baia Mare.

---

The Kompass report will be offered to authorities and other non-governmental organisations at home and abroad for use with war refugee and at-risk communities. The guide will be offered free of charge to beneficiaries, both online and in physical format.

#### Four steps and 10 recommendations for a successful intervention

The four steps for a successful intervention in support of refugee communities, according to the Kompass model, are:

1. Awareness – quickly and comprehensively providing the information displaced people need, in their own language or in a foreign language they know and on platforms accessible to them.
2. Supporting refugees to deal with local bureaucracy and to be able to travel to Europe to their final destinations. The eLiberare Association held over 8,400 information sessions and offered 1,795 packages with what is needed to ensure personal dignity.
3. The development of individual safety plans, so that every citizen is protected from the risk of human trafficking. Over 3000 people have benefited from such personal safety plans from eLiberare and over 1600 have had their own safety passwords to use in case of danger.
4. Assistance for the refugees who go further, in collaboration with organizations from the destination countries, and for those who remain in Romania, to be able to integrate into the labour market in the right way and to receive the services provided by the local authorities.

The recommendations for action made by eLiberare, starting from the vulnerabilities that expose refugees to human trafficking, refer to: coordination of state structures and civil society, to avoid duplication of actions and the use of the National Identification and Referral Mechanism; unitary data collection; discouraging the demand for sexual services involving women from the refugee community; promoting the best interest of the child; creating a system for validating job and accommodation offers to avoid human trafficking; the existence of a 24/7 problem reporting line, in the Ukrainian language; social assistance in the context of trauma awareness; inclusion – consultations between NGOs and community representatives, to prevent trafficking; integration (fair employment, acceleration of vocational equivalencies, language courses, access to safe accommodation, healthcare, childcare solutions and school integration).

#### How we help children and teenagers protect themselves from traffickers

Constructed as a story with cartoon characters, the Guide for Parents, Educators, Social Workers and Community Intervention Specialists to Educate Children and Adolescents to Protect Themselves from Traffickers was created around imaginary people inspired by the Ukrainian community – the family Kozaks, a mother with her three children, arrived in Romania, following the war in Ukraine: Ivan, the son, aged 16, Nasti (Anastasia), the daughter, 12, Nina, the youngest of the family, aged 3-4 and their mother.

The story exposes potentially dangerous situations for the three children, to highlight the risks they are exposed to, through the lens of human trafficking. Ivan is at the age where he is looking for a part-time job, but he has an exam to take. 12-year-old Nasti is approaching adolescence and has been placed in a Loverboy situation at risk of online exploitation. Nina, the little girl, was at risk of being kidnapped.

#### Guidelines for the safety of children and adolescents

The document lists basic information that children need to know: name and address, a parent's phone number, emergency phone numbers in the country they are in, rules to follow when in a crowded area (to look for a man in uniform, for example), rules regarding interaction with strangers (must not allow strangers to photograph them, must not allow themselves to be touched by strangers).

When they leave school, children must follow a set of safety rules: alert a teacher if they're going home with someone else, don't get into a stranger's car without telling their parents. The guide includes recommendations for children and young people to surf the internet safely. Parents should frequently ask children how many friends they have on social media and how many of them they have met in real life, which can help identify people who may be involved in human trafficking.

---



## Annex 3 – Legal framework of social benefits

Support granted to families with low incomes:		
Social aid, emergency aid	<a href="#">Law no. 416/2001</a> regarding the guaranteed minimum income	Article 2 (7) Families or single persons, citizens of other states or stateless persons, who have their residence or, as the case may be, their domicile in Romania, under the conditions of Romanian legislation, benefit from the regulations of this law
The heating aid	<a href="#">G.E.O. no. 70/2011</a> regarding social protection measures during the cold season	Article 12(1) Benefit from the rights provided for in art. 8, 9, 10 and 11 families and single persons, Romanian citizens, as well as foreign or stateless citizens with domicile or, as the case may be, residence in Romania, established under the conditions of Romanian legislation
	<a href="#">G.D. no. 920/2011</a> for the approval of the Methodological Norms of application of the O.U.G. no. 70/2011	Article 2 (2) The aids provided for in art. 1 is also granted to families and single persons who do not have Romanian citizenship, if they are in one of the following situations: b) they are foreign citizens or stateless persons who have been granted, under the terms of the law, a form of protection and have their domicile or, as the case may be, residence in Romania, under the law
Allowance for family support	<a href="#">Law no. 277/2010</a> regarding the family support allowance	Article 7(1) Families whose members are Romanian citizens who have their domicile or residence in Romania, as well as citizens of other states or stateless persons who have their domicile or, as the case may be, residence in Romania, benefit from the allowance Romania, under the conditions of Romanian legislation. (2) Persons without a domicile or residence and without a home also benefit from the allowance, based on the declaration on their own responsibility that they have not requested the allowance from other municipalities
<b>Family policies</b>		
State allowance for children	<a href="#">Law no. 61/1993</a> on the state allowance for children	Article 1(1) The state allowance for children is established as a form of state protection granted to all children, without discrimination. (2) All children up to the age of 18 receive state child allowance. Article 2 Benefit from state allowance for children and children of foreign citizens and stateless persons resident, under the law, in Romania, if they live with their parents

Foster care allowance	<a href="#">Law no. 272/2004</a> on the protection and promotion of children's rights	Art 48 (3) Parents have the obligation to request from the competent authorities the granting of allowances, allowances, benefits in money or in kind and other facilities provided by law for children or families with children. Article 63 Throughout the placement, the child's residence is, as the case may be, with the person, the family, the maternal assistant or the residential service that takes care of him. Article 128(1) For each child for whom the placement measure was taken with a family, person, foster carer, in a residential type service of an accredited private provider or guardianship was instituted, in accordance with the law, a monthly allowance is granted of placement, the amount of which is represented by multiplying the reference social indicator by 1.808.
The allowance for child rearing and the insertion incentive	<a href="#">O.U.G. no. 111/2010</a> regarding leave and the monthly allowance for raising children, with subsequent amendments and additions	Article 12(1) The rights provided by this emergency ordinance are granted in the situation where the applicant meets the following cumulative conditions: a) is a Romanian citizen, a foreign citizen or stateless; b) has, according to the law, domicile or residence on the territory of Romania; c) lives in Romania together with the child/children for whom he/she is claiming the rights and takes care of his/her upbringing and care. (5) The provisions of para. (1) is properly correlated in the case of entitled persons to whom the provisions of Regulation (EC) no. 883/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of April 29, 2004 on the coordination of social security systems and Regulation (EC) no. 987/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of September 16, 2009 establishing the procedure for implementing Regulation (EC) no. 883/2004 on the coordination of social security systems. (6) The condition provided for in para. (1) lit. c) it is also considered fulfilled in the situation where, after the establishment of the right, the entitled person, together with the child for whom the right is established, temporarily establishes his residence in another country. (7) In the sense of the provisions of para. (6), temporary means a period of up to 6 months per year for all situations, except for those provided for in art. 2 para. (5) lit. k) and x), for which the condition provided for in para. (1) lit. c) is considered fulfilled during the entire accompanying period or during which he is on mission.
	<a href="#">Law no. 122/2006</a> on asylum in Romania	Article 20 Rights of beneficiaries of a form of protection (1) The recognition of refugee status or the granting of subsidiary protection gives the beneficiary the following rights: m) to receive, upon request, within the limits of the state's financial availability, under conditions established by Government decision, a non-refundable monthly aid, hereinafter referred to as aid, the amount of which is related to the reference social indicator, for a maximum period of 12 months, if, for objective reasons, he is deprived of the necessary means of subsistence
		Article 17 Rights (1) During the asylum procedure, the foreigner who requests the granting of a form of protection has the following rights: j) the right of the applicant for international protection who does not have the means of support to benefit, upon request, throughout the asylum procedure, as well as during the period provided for in letter a), of material conditions of reception, which guarantee subsistence and protect his physical and mental health. The sums necessary for granting the material conditions of reception are



		established by a Government decision and are provided from the state budget, through the budget of the Ministry of Internal Affairs
		Article 133 The rights of beneficiaries of temporary protection (1) Throughout the duration of temporary protection, the beneficiaries of this form of protection enjoy the following rights: d) to benefit, upon request, from the assistance necessary for maintenance, in the situation where they do not have the necessary material means.

---