ROMANIA 2023
MULTI-SECTOR NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Updated Presentation

Photo credit: Ioana Moldovan / UNHCR 2023
Contributions

MSNA is conducted in the framework of:

Regional Refugee Response Plan
For the Ukraine Situation

Developed, implemented, and analysed by:

UNHCR
IOM

contact: rombuim@unhcr.org
web: Romania Operational Data Portal
Objectives & Methodology
The MSNA is a regional interagency multi-sectoral assessment, seeking to capture and understand:

- the needs of refugees in Romania, focusing on the in-country refugee population;
- the current level of access to basic services, and how refugees’ needs are met;
- service gaps and refugees’ priorities for the coming year;

The MSNA represents a key source of information for the 2024 RRP planning, which aims to capture funding and planning requirements for the response.

These preliminary results cover the following topics:

1. DEMOGRAPHICS
2. PROTECTION
3. EDUCATION
4. SOCIAL ECONOMIC INCLUSION AND LIVELIHOOD
5. HEALTH
6. ACCOMMODATION
Overview

**COMPLETED VISITS**

1222 Households (HH)

**DATA COLLECTED**

By UNHCR, CSCM and IOM

**POPULATION COVERAGE**

Refugees living in Romania, e.g. in private accommodation, with host families, rentals, hostels/hotels and in government-designated collective sites, based on the UNHCR dataset.

**DATA COLLECTED**

From 25 July to 25 September

**ANALYSIS CONDUCTED BY**

CSCM/IOM/UNHCR
Methodology

The results are based on the analysis of the total surveys that were conducted.

| POPULATION | Refugees living in Romania, e.g. in private accommodation, with host families, rentals, hostels/hotels and in government-designated collective sites. |
| DESIGN | Household interviews. |
| DATA COLLECTION | From 25/7 to 25/9 by enumerators from UNHCR/CSCM + IOM |
| SAMPLE SIZE | 1222 HH interviews covering 3485 HH members |
| | Less than 10% living in collective sites (incl. workers hostels) |
| | 90% living in various forms of private accommodation. |

**SAMPLING AND REPRESENTATIVENESS:** The sampling was generated based on the UNHCR dataset (of the beneficiaries of cash assistance). There was a strata added for geographical coverage. The sampling is representative of the UNHCR dataset.

**LIMITATIONS:**

- Data collection during summer / school holidays made the process more difficult; part of the prospect respondents were out of Romania in holidays / visiting family in Ukraine;
- Limited reach of the refugee population living in collective sites;
- Sensitivity around protection, labour and income questions, therefore, a rather large non-response rate;
- Suceava and Constanta, two areas that posed challenges in the process of data collection.
- Male population is underrepresented.
Demographics
Demographics

Respondents

Around 88% of the respondents were women, and 12% were men. The largest age group is 35-59 years, comprising 59% of the respondents.

From the general number of respondents, 99.8% have Ukrainian citizenship; 0.4% also have Romanian citizenship, 0.2% have Moldovan, 0.1% possess Russian citizenship, while another 0.1% hold Armenian citizenship, and a further 0.1% are Uzbek citizens.

Out of the respondents, 95.83% identified themselves as having Ukrainian heritage, 1.23% as Romanian, 1.15% as part of other ethnic communities, 0.65% as Moldovan, 0.41% as Russian, 0.08% as Hungarian, and 0.08% as Roma. Additionally, 0.57% of the respondents preferred not to answer.

MCQ - multiple choice questions
During the sampling process there was one strata added, respecting the county distribution of the Ukrainian households under temporary protection. Interviews were conducted in **31 counties and Bucharest**, based on the UNHCR geographical distribution. The highest number of interviews were conducted in Bucharest (34.5%), where most refugees live.

Most of the interviews (75%) were conducted face to face in the county where they currently live. However, for counties with small number of registered households, the interviews were conducted online via video-calls. Additionally, some of the interviews were conducted online, exceptionally for households dealing with specific situations (people with disabilities, single parent, long working hours etc).

Quality Assurance mechanisms (training with enumerators, constant communication with them, random controls) have been put in place.
Demographics
Household and Population Characteristics

Average HH size
2.85

87.64% HH headed by women
12.36% HH headed by men

HH with children
68%

HH with children between 0 and 4 years
21.6%

HH with children between 5 and 14 years
53.1%

HH with children between 15 and 17 years
13.1%

% of household members by gender and age (N=3485)

% of children
38%

% of elderly
12.19%

6.8% individuals with Washington Group Disability level 3

% of households by gender & age of the head of household (N=1207)
Demographics
Household And Population Characteristics

% HH by length of displacement (N=1222)

- Other/don’t know: 0.16%
- Less than 3 months: 0.57%
- 3 months to 6 months: 2.70%
- 6 months to 1 year: 44.76%
- More than 1 year: 51.80%

% HH by area of living (N=1222)

- Urban: 87.56%
- Rural: 11.87%
- Don’t know: 0.57%
Each shaded region represents the specific Oblast from which these households have been displaced.

Majority of Ukrainian refugees in Romania Originate from Odeska oblast (38.22%), Khersonska (14.48%) and Chernivetska (9.82%).
Protection
Most of the challenges were experienced in 2022 at the beginning of the TP process.
83% of the respondents declared feeling very safe and fairly safe walking alone in the neighborhood after dark and only 1% felt very unsafe. This indicates that generally speaking, there are no important safety issues for Ukrainian refugees across Romania. However, since this is a sensitive topic, there is a chance of abuse happening and not being mentioned or reported.
More households express concerns regarding the risks faced by girls (23%) than by boys (10%).

The three most commonly mentioned risks are also the same for both groups: family separation, bullying or violence in school or the community, and worsened mental health, with some variation across the groups.
Most respondents were able to mention at least one service where they can report violence, abuse or neglect against children. 69% mentioned the police, 10% reported that they know of government services, 10% know of a helpline, and 7% know of NGO services and 4% do not know any services.

The profile of households with children - 68% of households with children. From this percentage, 7.8% of the households the children are not living with neither biological parents, in 6% of the households the head of household is aged over 60 and in 3.5% of the households, the head is aged under 25 years.
23% of HHs report concerns regarding the safety and security of women, the top three being a high risk of getting robbed (21%), suffering from verbal harassment (12%), and being threatened with violence (12%).

When it comes to GBV services, respondents are most familiar with safety and security as well as with health services (76% and 64%, respectively). Around one third of respondents know of a helpline (36%), and around a half know how to request legal assistance (41%), or of psycho-social services (48%).
15.2% of HHs have concerns regarding the safety and security of men, a slightly smaller proportion than in the case of women. The four main concerns are being robbed (26%), suffering from verbal harassment (12%), confiscation of ID (12%), and suffering from discrimination (10%).
Around half of HHs have not received aid from either governmental sources or humanitarian organizations in the last 3 months. 14% were not satisfied with the aid received. The top three programmes that generated dissatisfaction with the aid received were: insufficient or absent - governmental housing programme and the humanitarian financial aid in the form of cash and vouchers.

95% of HHs have reported needs - the most commonly mentioned ones are accommodation (17%), healthcare services (14%), food (12%) and employment/livelihoods support (11%).
The large majority of HHs, 82% are satisfied with aid workers. Among those who are dissatisfied (8%), the main reported reasons are that aid workers don’t show respect for local cultures (23%), they are disrespectful in their interactions (21%), the assistance is not enough (13%) and they don’t speak Ukrainian (11%).
Education
40% of the school aged children (5-17 years old) were enrolled in school in Romania in the school year 2022/23. Among those who were not, the primary reasons for non-enrollment were the fact that the child was attending Ukrainian distance learning (61%), the language barrier (20%), as well as not wanting to put an extra burden to the children (4%). The percentage of children planning to be enrolled in school in the coming school year is rather the same as for the previous one - 51%. 39% are not planning to be enrolled, and 10% of children’s parents have not decided on this issue yet.
The total percentage of minors represents 38% of the Ukrainian population that has temporary protection in Romania. The school age population represents around 30% and the remaining 8% falls into the category of 0-4 years. From the school aged children, almost 80% are accessing Ukrainian distance learning. From the 10% of respondents who are not answering, there is an amount of 5 year old children who cannot attend the Ukrainian distance learning because the enrollment in the primary education starts with the age of 6 to 7 years old. From the category of early education, around 32% of children are attending daycare and other forms of early education. Around 35% are not enrolled in early education and for 31.5%, mostly aged 0 and 1, there was a non-response rate.
From the total population of school-aged children, **22% are enrolled both in Romania and Ukraine (the distance learning programme)**. Moreover, **49% of the children were participating in the school year of 2022/2023 in other forms of education**, excluding the Romanian school and online education. In terms of type of classes attended, almost **80%** attend regular classes, **9%** preparatory classes and **10%** learning support classes. There is a general preference for the Ukrainian school system, but the percentages of children enrolled in Romanian schools has increased in comparison to 2022.
In terms of adults' education achievements, most of the population investigated - the respondents and their family members included - has tertiary education, over 56% having at least a Bachelor's degree. The common level of education achieved is a Master's degree (36%), followed by technical or vocational studies (24%), bachelor's degree (19%) and secondary education (17%). A small percentage of 2% has primary education studies and 1% has no form of education. Another 1% declined to give an answer. The figure contains information about the level of education of those members of the investigated households who are above 16 years old. Because this question encompasses information not only about the respondent's education, but also that of their family members, the total population of study is 2,151 subjects.
Socio-Economic Inclusion and Livelihood
Social Economic Inclusion And Livelihood

Livelihoods and Inclusion

inside/outside labour force (N=1,173)

Employment: Employment includes individuals of working age who have engaged in income-generating activities in the past week prior to data collection. This encompasses formal employment, self-employment, agricultural/fishing work, diverse income generation, temporary absence from paid roles, and unpaid contributions to family businesses.

Unemployment: number of individuals of working-age who were not employed during the past week (as per the definition above), who looked for a paid job or tried to start a business in the past 4 weeks, and who are available to start working within the next 2 weeks if ever a job or business opportunity becomes available.

Outside labor force: number of individuals of working-age individuals (who were not employed during the past week, and who either cannot start working within the next 2 weeks if a job or business opportunity becomes available, or did not look for a paid job or did not try to start a business in the past 4 weeks.

Inside labor force (people working-age): Employed and Unemployed

% of youth (16 to 24) who are Not in Education, Training or Employment (NEET) 24%
Out of all respondents employed, 69% have a formal contract, 28% have no formal contract and 3% either do not know or do not want to answer. As for those engaged in both contractual and non-contractual work, as well as elementary labour activities, they worked a minimum of 2 hours per week and maximum of 70 hours per week, with an average of 34.4 worked hours per week.
Main activity in host country

**Main activity of the Ukrainian refugees that are unemployed and retired but are engaged in a form of laborious activity (N=1,579)**

- Household responsibilities, including care for children or elders: 8%
- Unemployed/job-seeker: 23%
- Retired or Pensioner: 20%
- Studying: 10%
- With a long-term illness, injury or disability: 3%
- Other: 33%
- Professional training: 0%

The share of UA national that are unemployed are engaged in other forms of activities.

An important share of 33% is unable to work due to household responsibilities and childcare.

23% are unemployed and 41% do not work due to reasons such as retirement (20%), medical reasons (8%) education (10%) or professional training (3%).

It is important to mention that out of those engaged in other activities in Romania (N=1,579), 47% have mentioned engaging in some kind of work in the past week, referring to non-contractual work, a few hours per week, such as helping look over a child for a few hours a week, help with cleaning, help with shopping etc.
Main activity in Ukraine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity Description</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Work for someone else for pay, for one or more hours</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engaged in household or family responsibilities including taking care of</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run or do any kind of business, farming or other activity to make money</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studying</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other: specify</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retired or Pensioner</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a long-term illness, injury or disability</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional training</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help in a family business or farm</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed/Job-seeker</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Regarding their activity before leaving Ukraine, 47% of the surveyed UA nationals and their family members were in paid employment, and 17% were engaged in household activities. In comparison, in the case of 33% the main activities in Romania deal with managing the household and caring for family members due to the lack of similar job opportunities as in their home country and due to the lack of childcare facilities. In Romania, 47% do engage in elementary activities such as working for or helping someone for a few hours a week, similarly to their activity back in Ukraine.
33% of working-age HH members (16-64 years) are employed, 27% are unemployed. 24% of the HHs members fall into the NEET category (16-24 y/o). The most common sectors of employment are hospitality industries, retail and manufacturing and education. For the ones that mentioned other, there are some respondents who mentioned the maritime industry, the beauty and the automotive one. A large number refused to give more information. The main challenges reported are lack of knowledge of the Romanian language, a lack of decent employment opportunities and a lack of employment opportunities suited to their skills. Thirteen percent are not actively looking for work.
The sector of employment of Ukrainian refugees in Romania corresponds partially with their work experience or training, as shown in the graphic. The main field of experience or education was reported under the category Other sector or Other service activities such as beauty industry, babysitting, sales, services or cleaning, with 22% of the population of study having experience in this field. The next most common working sector is Trade and Repair, with 13% of the population having worked or trained in this sector.

Eight per cent of the UA nationals from the group studied have background in Education, followed by 7 per cent involved in professional activities such as lawyers, accountants or engineers.

Upon coming into the host country, the respondents do not always find work in the field they have experience or training.
According to the data collected, most types of income that cover the daily expenses comes from Other sources of income (40%). The main sources of income are Investments, savings and properties (27%), followed by loans (21%).
The second main source of income comes from Employment in Romania, most respondents (76%) receiving income from regular employment, followed by 19% that receive income from casual or temporary work conducted in the host country. The third main source of income comes from the Ukrainian Government, the highest share of income coming from old-age pension (59%), followed by parental benefits (19%). There is also another form of income not detailed, that is provided by the Romanian government, covering 4% of the total forms of income received.

It is important to mention that one household can have more than one source of income.
When asked about the access to financial services, 85% of the respondents mentioned that they have access to financial services, while 14% have reported no access to such services. Another 1% did not know or preferred not to answer.

The surveyed UA household head or co-head's level of satisfaction with social protection floors/system in the host country is positive. More than half of the surveyed population is satisfied with the social protection available, with 40% being somewhat satisfied and 16% being very satisfied.
Health
36.75% of the refugees managed to register with a general practitioner (GP).

28% of HHs members have a healthcare need in the last 30 days preceding the survey. 28% were unable to access needed services.

The main reported barriers in access to healthcare are the lack of knowledge on how to access health services (20%), language (19%), unable to make an appointment (17%) and the incapacity to afford the fees (15%).
According to the respondents, 39% of HH members are in need of mental health or psychosocial support. Looking at household level, there are 44% of households with at least one member in need of mental health and psychosocial support. Out of these persons, 39% have received help for their problem. The main reasons for not getting the help they needed were that they did not know where to seek help (28%), the language barrier (21%) and high price for this service (10%).
Accommodation
Shelter / Accommodation

Payment Arrangement

Average monthly expenditure on renting accommodation

2,015 RON

% of HH by accommodation arrangements (N=1222)

- Accommodation – on your own: 82%
- Accommodation - shared with others: 8%
- Hotel/hostel: 4%
- Collective site: 4%
- Other: 1%
- Prefer not to answer: 0%

Regarding the living conditions of HHs, the most common arrangement is accommodation on their own (82%), 8% share with others, 4% live at a collective site, 4.5% in a hostel and 1.5% have other forms of accommodation.

Out of 82% of those, who accommodated on their own, 78% of HHs make a full payment (rent, utilities, mortgage, etc.), 6% of HHs, are entirely reliant on government schemes, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), or similar assistance programs for their financial support, 6 % of HHs do not make any payments due to the fact that they hosted by local person/family (unrelated). Partial payment facilitated by relatives or close friends is applicable to a modest proportion of households, accounting for approximately 3%. Other* 3% have other type of arrangement, and 33 % of which declare that they live in credit, while waiting for payment from new government program. Only 2 % of HHs subsidized by government and pay their expenses only partially. And 1 % relay on support from their employer. 1% prefer not to answer to this question.
Regarding the pressure, which some HHs might experienced, only 3.5% of HHs are facing pressure to leave their accommodation. 18% of HHs report issues with their current living conditions. The most common problems are being lack of sufficient hot water, insufficient privacy, space is not easy accessible, sleeping pillows are not enough.

**HHs most reported issues with accommodation – MCQ (N= 384)**

- Lack of sufficient hot water: 14%
- Insufficient privacy: 13%
- Sleeping pillows are not enough: 12%
- Space is not easily accessible using local transportation: 10%
- Space is not clean: 10%
- Unable to cook and/or store food properly: 9%
- Unable to keep warm or cool: 9%
- Lack of separate showers: 8%
- Unable to lock: 5%
- Place is not accessible to persons with disabilities: 2%