



TERRE DES HOMMES FOUNDATION

# Annual Report 2024

# ROMANIA



**Terre des hommes**  
Helping children worldwide.

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# Introduction

About Terre des hommes  
Foundation (Romania)

Because we live in a world where children and young people cannot always grow up safe from harm, we support them, hand in hand, in building their resilience, so that they can become actors and actors of positive change in their lives. We aspire to a world where children's rights, as defined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, are always respected. The Foundation was born in Switzerland in 1960, then its delegations spread all over the world. In Romania, the Terre des hommes Foundation is active since 1922, and has had thousands of beneficiaries every year.

We have two main areas of intervention:

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**Supporting children in migration or affected by a migration context.**

Migration negatively affects children's life in many ways: from parents who leave the country to children who migrate by themselves either from or to Romania. In this field, our priorities are their safety and their access to their fundamental rights.

**Access to justice for children.** Terre des hommes believes in an efficient justice system where youth are not deprived of liberty. Therefore, we develop specific methodologies for professionals who work with children in contact with the law and friendly practices for children, with focus on mental balance and resilience.

# What the children say

“No one has ever done so much for us”  
(participant at the activities at the Resilience & Innovation Center).

“There were many moments from the youth camp that I will remember for the rest of my life, but the most touching was when we wrote thoughts about each other. When I look at this piece of paper, I understand that I have found a new family”. (Yevghenia, 15 years)

“This tool is revolutionary in that it breaks down the barriers that typically prevent children from reaching out for help. It provides a sense of control to the child in an otherwise overwhelming situation.” (a Child Advisory Board member, about the chatbot created within i-Access My Rights project to make legal information more accessible and child-centered).

# Numbers for 2024

7.738

total of unique beneficiaries reached through support in Romania (children, youth and adult members of their families in some cases)

20

videos and publications created in order to support with useful information or educate and consolidate prevention & awareness

3,869,464

(eur) budget invested for children in Romania

## Our institutional partners

The Ministry of National Education, The National Authority for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Children and Adoptions, The General Inspectorate for Immigrations, D.G.A.S.P.C. București, D.G.A.S.P.C. Dolj, D.G.A.S.P.C. Olt, D.G.A.S.P.C. Gorj, D.G.A.S.P.C. Neamț, The National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons, The National Administration of Penitentiaries, Educational Centers from Buziaș, Târgu Ocna, Craiova, Tichilești, National Probation Directorate, School Inspectorate Ploiești

And academic Institutions: Faculty of Social Work Bucharest, Faculty of Social Work Craiova, National College of Social Workers

## Our donors

Our projects in Romania are funded by institutional donors and other private foundations. In 2024 these were our biggest donors:

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, European Commission, Swiss-Romanian Cooperation Program, Botnar Foundation, Norway Grants, EEA Grants, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Missing Children Europe, MEDICOR Foundation, Orange, Fondation Orange, Active Citizens Fund Romania programme funded by Iceland Liechtenstein and Norway through EEA and Norway Grants 2014-2021, The European Union contracted by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development through the Migration Partnership Facility, Crisis and Support Center of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France, the City of Zurich, Z Zurich Foundation, and Swiss Solidarity Foundation.

**YOU or YOUR COMPANY CAN ALSO CONTRIBUTE for the next year and be featured in our next report!**

See the last page for details.

# Our Access to Justice Programme

We are one of the few organizations protecting the rights of youth in contact with the law in Romania. Terre des hommes believes in an effective justice system, in which young people are not deprived of their freedom.

Thus, we develop specific methodologies for professionals working with children in conflict with the law and child-friendly practices, with an emphasis on mental balance and resilience. The following are the projects we implemented in 2024.

## **i-RESTORE 2.0 - Accessible Quality Restorative Justice processes for children in contact with the law in Europe**

### **Number of beneficiaries: 489**

The i-RESTORE 2.0 project was focused on introducing the concept of Restorative Justice within the Romanian system, with a particular focus on helping professionals who work in contact with children part of the justice system to better understand their needs, how to ensure their participation in a fair process. The project aims to empower children, including victims, to express their views about restorative justice through digital and child-led creative approaches; increase awareness of families, practitioners, policy makers and the media on restorative justice for children in criminal proceedings and increase the number of practitioners who can provide child-friendly restorative justice services. The project targets, across Romania, Greece, The Netherlands, and Estonia. The i-RESTORE 2.0 project is co-funded by the European Union.

### **ACTIVITIES in 2024 in i-RESTORE 2.0**

- **Activities in schools**

- There have been trainings and workshops in schools for teachers, parents and students. In The first phase ( spring 2024), the topic was related to Restorative Justice and introduction in restorative approaches. The second phase (autumn 2024) involved only students, who created a unique game for learning purposes.

- **Twinning arrangements**

- The Romanian delegation (youth members of the Child Advisory Board and justice professionals) travelled to Estonia between in February 2024, then the Estonian delegation came to Romania in March in order to understand local practices.

- **Training with Safety in Schools Directorate – Police institution**

- a workshop session for one day with the staff in the Safety in Schools Directorate of the Romanian Police, was attended by 30 Police Officers or Chief Police Officers, from 12 different counties in Romania, who are working directly with school students on prevention of violence and criminality. We held sessions on restorative justice, while we also presented materials created by youth promoting the concept. The main focus was related to the game developed by the youth, which will be used in the future at national level in at least 40 schools. This allowed the game to reach national coverage and the project reached sustainability.

- **Activities in the detention centers**

- The game was tested in in the four detention centers with children and youth in the justice system (Buzias, Craiova, Tichilesti and Targu Ocna) who learned more about the concept in a more child-friendly way.

### **Main accomplishment**

The Child Advisory Board in Romania developed a game called „Reconciliation Race” which was presented at the Final European Conference as part of the Child-led workshop and has been met with huge success. The resource is a guessing game, which can be used by children from 9+ years and by adults who are working in the justice system in Romania and wish to know more about restorative justice.

The 90 copies in Romanian and 10 copies in English were distributed to schools, organizations and public institutions such as The Police, The National Administration of Penitentiaries, etc. Children in schools and from the four detention centers Buzias, Craiova, Tichilesti and Targu Ocna have tested it, but also the staff of the Safety in Schools Directorate of the Romanian Police.

Two of the youth hosted the workshops with the game in the detention centres themselves, as they expressed the will to do so.

### **Main event in 2024**

More than 60 people participated at the Final European Conference of the i-Restore 2.0 in Brussels including members of the coordination team, Child Advisory Boards (CABs), and justice professionals from 8 European countries (Romania, Hungary, Belgium, The Netherlands, Estonia, United Kingdom, Italy, France).

The project was a journey aimed at empowering child victims, suspects, or accused individuals to become agents of change within restorative justice procedures.

## **i-ACCESS MyRights**

Number of beneficiaries: 90

i-ACCESS MyRights, financed by European Commission (2023-2025), is an innovative initiative harnessing artificial intelligence (AI) to improve children's access to legal information and legal assistance. To this purpose it is promoting a child-centred AI-driven solution.

The initiative has successfully developed a multilingual generative AI chatbot that provides child-friendly, reliable, and accessible legal information to children who experience or witness abuse, violence, and become involved in legal proceedings. The chatbot, implemented in Romania, Greece, and Bulgaria, ensures accessibility across multiple languages and has the potential for broader European dissemination and scale up.

### **ACTIVITIES IN 2024**

The consortium made sure to identify the best approach for developing a child-friendly chatbot. The process involved understanding the technological possibilities, legal implications, and, most importantly, the needs of children seeking justice. We have also actively involved 27 children and young people (ages

16-24) in Child Advisory Boards (CABs) across the country, to make sure it is tailored to their needs and aligned with ethical and child-rights principles.

The project results were presented at one national and one regional conference and brought together 180 experts with additional audience watching the recorded sessions on YouTube, further amplifying the project's reach and impact. In addition, targeted meetings were held with key governmental and child protection actors. In Romania, discussions with the National Prison Authority, and child protection agencies led to a midterm plan for integrating the chatbot into detention centers.

**AI chatbot desing & development:** The cornerstone of the i-ACCESS MyRights project is the development of a generative AI-powered chatbot, which is capable of simplifying complex legal language into accessible, child-friendly responses.

The Legal and Ethical Framework, Risk Analysis, and Mitigation Strategy provided a comprehensive analysis of child rights, data privacy, and AI in digital design. This document guided the chatbot's development, ensuring compliance with legal and ethical requirements, while mitigating potential risks.

In addition to feedback from children, Noldus's FaceReader software was used to measure emotional responses, providing deeper insight into children's reactions during testing. At the end of the process, the chatbot's evolution was monitored and assessed using the Legal and Ethical Monitoring, ensuring continuous alignment with child protection and ethical AI principles.

### **Main accomplishment**

- **Knowledge sharing and capacity building:** The project produced several high-level studies and knowledge products that explored key aspects of AI and child justice. These included analyses of the Legal and Ethical Framework, Risk Analysis, and Mitigation Strategy, which ensured that the chatbot adhered to all legal and ethical standards, particularly with regard to child privacy and data protection. A series of webinars were also conducted to raise awareness of AI's potential impact on child justice systems and to engage stakeholders in discussions about the ethical use of AI in this context.
- **Increased access to justice for children:** The chatbot provides child-friendly legal information, reducing barriers that prevent children from understanding their rights in criminal proceedings.
- **Empowering children:** By providing child-friendly legal information, the chatbot enables children to better understand their rights and participate more actively and with greater involvement in the justice process that affects them.
- **Innovative use of AI in child justice:** The chatbot is the first generative, AI-driven, child-friendly solution that sets a precedent for the integration of responsible AI into justice systems.
- **Ethical AI development:** The project has set an example for the ethical use of AI in child justice, prioritizing privacy, accuracy, and transparency while mitigating risks such as hallucination, bias, anthropomorphism, and unauthorized practice of law.

Main event in 2024

**National and regional events:** Three national roundtables and conferences in Romania, Greece, and Bulgaria provided platforms for dialogue between key stakeholders, including child protection

professionals, legal experts, and policymakers. We made sure children's voices were heard in broader justice reform context, such as the Final Regional Conference in Sofia in November 2024.

## Data MOSAIC

### **Number of beneficiaries:27**

Data MOSAIC (March 2023- January 2025) has mapped current data collection practices and promising approaches to monitoring and tackling violence against children in prisons across the EU. The goal was to develop a data collection tool and good practice guidance that will be tested in close cooperation with child justice authorities in Bulgaria, Ireland and Romania. It was funded by the European Union Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV-2022-DAPHNE).

The focus is on preventing violence against children (VAC) within the prison context by facilitating more comprehensive, comparable and human-rights based data systems that detect all forms of violence and are sensitive to the different experiences of imprisoned children, including girls and children belonging to marginalised groups, such as LGBTQI+ children and children with mental health problems or disabilities, or children belonging to racial, ethnic, religious or language minorities.

It improved the monitoring and data collection regarding violence in its various forms against children (VAC) in detention across the EU. It has been implemented by project partners in Bulgaria (SAPI), Ireland (PRI), and Romania (Tdh), with support from a consortium of partners (IAC) in Bulgaria, Romania, Spain (Tdh España), and Portugal (NOVA University) and national child advisory groups (CAG). The project seeks to establish comprehensive and comparable systems for recording data and to support ongoing advocacy for systemic reforms within the EU. Results included a mapping report, a new data collection tool and guide, training, cross-national knowledge-sharing events, e-learning, and international learning and advocacy events.

### ACTIVITIES IN 2024 in DATA MOSAIC

Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions were conducted, then follow-up training and national training sessions. The pilot was implemented, with monitoring and evaluation processes in place, including the integration of children's voices in the materials. National advocacy meetings were held to discuss the pilot findings and promote improvements in data collection practices. The knowledge sharing has been facilitated between pilot institutions, and an e-learning module was developed. An e-learning and advocacy event also promoted the project's findings.

### **Main accomplishment**

The data collection tool has been developed with a data consultant, while members of the IAC contributed.

### Number of beneficiaries: 1332

CARING (2023-2025) is a project dedicated to combating harmful social and gender norms within 4 implementing countries, particularly within the school setting. This project falls under one of our main priorities, namely prevention of School Related Gender-Based Violence (SRGBV). The project was led by Terre des hommes Romania, in partnership with Terre des hommes Hungary, Terre des hommes Hellas, SAPI Bulgaria, Association Roditelli Bulgaria and Brave Phone Croatia. CARING is co-funded by the European Commission.

### ACTIVITIES IN 2024 CARING

- Capacity building of the educational staff and school management – educational and school management staff were trained in order to address the gender dimension of violence against children. First they improved their understanding of the phenomenon, then they learned to empower boys and girls to transform unequal and harmful gendered power relations.
  - A peer-to-peer support program for the educational staff . The aim was to challenge and to support peers to act in situations when children may be at risk of harm. We provided the educational staff the opportunity to discuss gender related issues, gender adversity, and other types of violence; work towards building operational strategies for addressing and preventing violence; start consistently applying mechanisms for addressing GBV.
  - Trainings with youth leaders in each school - 3-day face to face trainings were held with young people to become youth leaders and promote positive behaviours.
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- **The child-led initiatives** – based on a methodology developed by the project manager, children conducted needs analysis regarding the school’s safety through surveys and peer interviews. Afterwards they analysed the results and developed solutions to turn schools into a safe space where social and gender norms are combated. Most of the initiatives in Romania consisted of creating ‘a safe space’, a corner, a room in the school that was painted and decorated with positive and encouraging messages, books, gameboards, that served as a break, quiet time. Some initiatives were a theatre play where scenes of bullying were shown to raise awareness.
  - Thematic parents’ meetings - organized with parents focusing on the issues of violence against children at school, GBV. Parents were made aware of the activities at school and considered how they can support their children in combating and preventing VAC and GBV.
  - A webinar dedicated to teachers explored the causes of violence against and between children, particularly in the context of Romanian schools. We have shown how gender influences violence, addressing questions such as why boys are more affected by physical abuse and why girls are more prone to cyberbullying and sexual violence.

## Main accomplishment

- The development of a methodology for implementing the child led initiatives that involved both needs analysis elements and project management tools adapted to be easily followed by the children. This allowed them to find concrete solutions and support the implementation of the initiatives.
- 8 meetings with parents and 8 child-led initiatives that aimed at raising awareness about SRGBV and create safe spaces in school

## **PRECISION 2.0 – Promote Rehabilitation, Empowerment of Children and Support for Youth Offenders**

Number of beneficiaries :429

The PRECISION project – Promote Rehabilitation, Empowerment of Children and Support for Youth Offenders supported the rehabilitation and social reintegration of children and young people from detention and educational centers, in order to prevent recidivism. Financed by Medicor Foundation.

## **ACTIVITIES IN 2024 PRECISION 2**

Through PRECISION 2, activities using our unique methodology MGS (“Movement, Games and Sports”) were held by 4 sports monitors, one for each center. This way we made sure children & youth C&Y developed empathy, teamwork, and other valuable traits. A total of 199 children & youth took part in sports activities.

The mentoring was implemented in the centers in Craiova, Brăila-Tichilești and Buziaș with the help of three mentors and the probation service from Dolj county. The mentors had open and transparent discussions, where young people showed how they feel in the center, the difficulties and the needs for guidance. A total of 45 C&Y benefited from mentoring, from 3 centers.

Vocational training in all 4 centers also took place in Craiova (digital Competencies, Brăila – Tichilești (haircutting course), Buziaș (digital Competencies), Tg Ocna (haircutting Course). Creative activities such as popular dance, theatre, painting, improvement workshops, non-verbal communication, dramaturgy training have been also organized in the four centers (Craiova, Buzia , Braila-Tichilesti, Tg Ocna). We also raised awareness regarding the needs of these youth through the media, as we organized a press trip on 03-04 December 2024, with the presence of 5 journalists, 12 staff, and 5 youth from detention. This resulted in several articles and media products on radio shows, and websites.

## Main accomplishment

The FabLab space created and equipped in Tichilesti Detention Centre, a space where 78 vulnerable youth learned and practiced skills useful for their future, but also built their confidence. Objects created by them were displayed in various instances, such as the Annual Exposition at the Village Museum in Bucharest, as well as objects for the official meetings of National Authority of Penitentiaries.

## Main event in 2024

The “normalizing” of “socializing” outings for C&Y was very important, with beneficiaries having the ability to go outside the centres for a few hours. The youth welcomed creative activities and vocational education activities with enthusiasm. The FabLab was particularly welcomed in CD Braila-Tichilesti, and it has been put to extensive use by C&Y and staff there. The National Administration of Penitentiaries now promotes it as best practice.

## VOICE -Voicing concerns for children in detention

### Number of beneficiaries: 63

A Young Justice Transformers Group was created by 14 young people from Craiova Center, while 12 girls and 11 boys took part in consultations about child-friendly justice, violence against children in detention. We have encouraged connection, self-awareness and understanding their rights, but also priorities identified by the participants, and solutions to the difficulties they face. This initiative was an important step in promoting their active involvement and awareness of their rights.

- 7 prevention sessions were organized in schools with the participation of the mentor selected within the project, 9 young people from the Detention Centre in Craiova and about 52 young people from two high schools in Craiova, in which risk behaviours and consequences on personal development were discussed.

- 8 psycho-social counselling sessions were organized by a psychologist with 8 young people in the Detention Centre in Craiova, dealing with topics related to resilience, emotion management and conflict resolution.

- European Level Activities - Two young boys who have successfully rehabilitated after detention have taken part in the Young Justice Transformers Group caravan. In the official meetings, young people drew attention to critical issues such as lack of proper nutrition, poor air quality in the Craiova detention center, limited access to education and frequent cases of abuse and bullying by prison staff. The young participants have met representatives of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), and of the Division for the Rights of the Child, but also the Head of Division of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. We hope that further analysis and investigations will improve the detention conditions of children in Romania.

- Child-Led Awareness Materials: a total of 6 girls from detention have taken part in activities exploring the concept of "child-friendly justice" and created an original Storybook with children's views on friendly justice. The children from Educational Centre of Buzia and Detention Centre of Craiova shared their personal stories, life experiences, feelings, and perspectives, through letters, drawings and testimonies. The meetings were a valuable opportunity to better understand their perspectives on justice, while the power of storytelling amplified the voices of youth in contact with the justice system.

# Our Migration Programme

Migration negatively affects children's life in many ways: families or children leave their home country (or return after long absences) in search for a better life or for peace. In this field, our priorities are preventing children's and youth's unsafe migration, no matter their origin, and making sure that all children have access to their fundamental rights.

## **The Support for Ukrainian refugees and their children in Romania**

**funded by UNHCR, the UN Agency for Refugees**

### **Number of beneficiaries 4.681**

- Children and caregivers who received protection services: 1311
- Consultations supporting mental health and psychosocial support services: 3005
- Staff/ volunteers/ representatives of authorities trained on protection: 94
- External actors and stakeholders consulted on child protection system strengthening: 37
- Children/adolescents and caregivers at risk receiving and engaged in MHPSS, digital skills and educational inclusion: 3571

This project focused on child protection and Mental health and PsychoSocial practices (MHPSS), providing case management, protection assistance, and referrals to vulnerable families from the Ukrainian and Arabic-speaking communities of refugees. It offered individual and group support for children, youth, and mothers, along with digital skills training and psychosocial support at Resilience Innovation Facilities.

Advocacy efforts addressed children's rights, school inclusion, and bullying, while capacity-building sessions strengthened safeguarding and MHPSS. Local partnerships with schools and authorities enhanced integration and referral pathways. Key community events fostered connections between Ukrainian and Romanian families.

### **ACTIVITIES 2024**

#### **Child Protection:**

We provided information, protection assistance, case management, and referrals for Ukrainian families, focusing on single mother households, large families, those with limited means, and those at risk of ethnic discrimination. Assistance was also extended to vulnerable refugee families from Arabic-speaking countries, including Syrians, Iraqis, and children from Gaza.

#### **Mental health and PsychoSocial Activities:**

- Individual and group sessions for children, youth, and mothers at our centers.
- Support groups for mothers in Bucharest, Constanța, and Baia Mare.
- PM+ support for adults and children aged 16+ in Bucharest, Constanța, and Brașov.
- Ongoing and event-based psycho-social sessions for children.

Our **Resilience Innovation Facilities** (centres for education) hosted activities combining psychosocial support, life skills, and digital skills training, such as 3D printing and laser woodworking. Also they were the core of our themed events and celebrations that took place in Bucharest, Brasov and Constanta (the latter through our partner Centrul pentru Resurse Civice).

#### **Educational Inclusion & Prevention:**

- Activities in Bucharest, Braşov, and Constanţa focused on Romanian culture and prevention
- Partnerships with local schools were made
- We created and published a set of auxiliary manuals and workbooks in Romanian for Ukrainian children and adolescents, covering a specific and important need

#### **ICAM Training:**

- Delivered to six schools in Bucharest, Constanţa, and Braşov, addressing integration challenges for Ukrainian children.

#### **Mental health and PsychoSocial Community Events:**

- We brought together children, families, and Romanian communities to celebrate occasions like Women’s Day, Easter, Children’s Day, Ukrainian Culture Day, Sports Day, and Christmas, with 150-500 participants.

#### **Child Advisory Boards (CAB):**

- In Bucharest, Braşov, and Constanţa, the three groups contributed to activities, advocacy events, and provided input for activities at our hubs for educations.

**Advocacy:** Focused on children's rights, school inclusion, and bullying, with two key events organized in collaboration with UNHCR.

#### **Capacity Building:**

- We held Child Protection and Safeguarding training for staff and partners.
- We contributed to Capacity-building on MHPSS methodologies, safeguarding, and Integration Methodology ICAM.
- We engaged with local and national authorities to strengthen referral pathways and enhance visibility.

**Main events in 2024:** For beneficiaries: community events were held at Women’s Day, Easter, Children’s Day, Ukrainian Culture Day, Sports Day, and Christmas. Two advocacy events focused on children’s participation in their communities and in school.

## **SUN – Safeguarding Unaccompanied and Separated Children’s Rights through the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights**

### **Number of beneficiaries: 50**

The project SUN (Safeguarding Unaccompanied and Separated Children’s Rights through the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights) promotes the effective enjoyment of rights stipulated in the CFREU by unaccompanied and separated refugee and migrant children (UASC). Project started in April 2023 (24 months) and is funded by a grant from the European Commission, and is carried out in partnership with organizations from 6 EU countries (Bulgaria, Italy, Greece, Spain, Belgium and the Netherlands).

The main objectives the project aims to strengthen the capacity of professionals to protect the rights of unaccompanied migrant minors through the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and to facilitate the cooperation of key actors at national and transnational level.

### **ACTIVITIES IN 2024**

- Participation in the exchange of experience in Utrecht, organized by the SUN project partner organization NIDOS. During the study visit we worked on the benchmarking report, presented the NIDOS model "Guardian for UASC", interacted with experts, lawyers and judges from the High Court of Justice in The Hague on good practices in working with unaccompanied migrant minors.
- Developing a training curriculum and contributing to the elaboration of the Practitioners' Handbook on Safeguarding Unaccompanied and Separated Children's Rights through the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.
- The participation of Terre des hommes Romania representatives to the Training of trainers and exchange of experience that took place in Barcelona, visit organized by the project partner Comissió Catalana d'Ajuda al Refugiat (CCAR). Representatives of the partner countries were trained to replicate information based on the articles of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union in national trainings with specialists, experts in the field of UASC
- Organizing a national conference to launch the Practitioners Handbook on UASC Rights. The event aimed to bring together leading experts in the field of protection and promotion of the rights of unaccompanied refugee and migrant minors working in Romania to exchange experiences and learn more about the standards on the rights of unaccompanied minor children, problems faced by the representatives of the institutions as well as the best practices updated in the European Union.

### **Main accomplishment**

The realization of the Handbook for Practitioners, was an important re-launch of the project as it was designed to serve as a practical guide for professionals working with unaccompanied

migrant children in the EU. Aiming to provide a thorough understanding of the legal frameworks, principles and good practices for the protection of the rights and welfare of UASC, offering clear guidance and actionable insights, this handbook seeks to empower stakeholders to effectively address the challenges faced by UASC and ensure their rights are respected and upheld.

### **Main event in 2024**

National conference to launch the Handbook for Practitioners.

## **BUILDING BRIDGES FOR THE REFUGEE COMMUNITY**

### **Beneficiaries: 3651**

Building Bridges is a project funded by the Rapid Response Fund and managed directly by the State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) Switzerland. Its primary objective is to enhance sustainable access to support and opportunities for Ukrainian refugees residing in Romania and Hungary. The project's focus areas include providing social welfare assistance, facilitating access to quality information, promoting education, encouraging youth engagement, and fostering skill development. Through the reinforcement of both formal and informal systems, our overarching aim is to empower and cultivate resilience within the refugee community.

### **ACTIVITIES IN 2024**

- Romania created a comprehensive mapping of services for Ukrainian refugees in Bucharest, Braşov, and Constanţa, covering employment, medical care, legal assistance, social services, MHPSS, cash assistance, anti-trafficking measures, GBV support, education, and accommodation. It also included services for non-Ukrainian refugees and was presented to the Migration Department in May to improve social worker and RIF staff referrals.
- Continuous information about these services was shared during beneficiary sessions, child protection interventions, community events like Children's Day and Refugee Day, and through Telegram channels targeting vulnerable groups.
- Since early 2024, Tdh has worked with Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR) on advocacy for unaccompanied minors and legal issues and with Bucharest's General Directorate on safeguarding and child participation. In Constanţa, two community meetings with civil society emphasized the need for intersectoral collaboration.
- Partnerships with public services, schools, and NGOs were formed to address funding reductions. Tdh and partner organization Center for Civic Resources (Constanta) participated in the Refugee Response Plan working groups to ensure coordination among actors supporting Ukrainian refugees.
- The Quality-of-Service methodology was contextualized, and it served to identify safeguarding and child participation challenges in three NGOs and Bucharest's General Directorate, leading to a two-day training and future coaching on safeguarding and youth participation.

- The PM+ training was held for Ukrainian community helpers and NGO members in July, while safeguarding trainings with local child protection practitioners in the three locations were held in September and October.
- Tdh strengthened the three RIFs by establishing regular workshops and a child advisory board in each city.
- Weekly workshops focused on mental health, digital skills, and educational support for hundreds of children
- Community meetups covered topics like Women’s Rights, Children’s Rights, and climate change.
- Eleven youth-led initiatives empowered children to promote their ideas at the community level (40-60 people each).
- Two summer boot camps, each bringing together 45 children from three locations, fostered cross-city experiences.
- The Including Children Affected by Migration (ICAM) methodology was rolled out in 6 schools, with two schools in each targeted location.
- A regional boot camp was implemented in partnership with Hungary, where 24 participants (12 from each country) from the youth-led initiative took part in a 3-day regional boot camp in Budapest. They discussed their youth-led initiatives, found synergies for future collaboration, and exchanged good practices.

### **Main accomplishments**

- More information on access to public services and Tdh services for refugees was disseminated
- Implementation of key methodologies: Safeguarding, Quality of Service, and PM+, with engagement from NGOs and child protection services.
- Successful implementation of youth-led initiatives, with over 70 teenagers participating in activities focused on ecology, mental health, intercultural exchange, sports, and community events.
- Active participation of schools in the ICAM methodology, promoting child inclusion and well-being through school-level inclusion activities.
- Increase in child participation in digital skills, Mental health and psychosocial activities, educational activities, youth-led initiatives, summer boot camps, and regional boot camps.

## **WELL-U Support system adapted to the needs of refugees**

Number of beneficiaries: 279

The Well-U project has trained social workers, social and medical workers, mediators and teachers, educators, professionals from local organizations who work every day with refugee children and adults from Ukraine. The objective of Well-U is to create an integrated support system adapted to the needs of refugees. After the emergency, it is important that refugees receive not only medical and psychological assistance, but also support in the individual process of social and cultural integration. Children and families forced to leave Ukraine have experienced traumatic events due to conflict and displacement, and this condition has consequences for their mental health.

In 2024 the training focus was on enhancing personal and social skills through games, sport and creativity, equipping participants to organize psychosocial activities for vulnerable children, to improve their resilience and psychosocial well-being. A course was designed for professionals working with child protection, children's rights, and related fields. The key objectives of the training were: understanding principles and theoretical underpinnings of the MGSC methodology; exploring the role of play, sport and creativity in stimulating psychosocial development; learning practical strategies to implement the MGSC methodology; innovative techniques to enhance resilience and psychosocial well-being in vulnerable children; promoting collaboration and networking opportunities with like-minded professionals.

Well U was co-financed by the European Union, Health and Digital Executive Agency.

## **STEP-IN Mental health training for social workers working with migrants**

Number of beneficiaries: 52

The STEP IN project strengthened the capacity of professionals who are not specialized in mental health to respond to basic mental health needs of refugees. We facilitated the integration process of persons affected by migration by using Problem Management +, provided to lay professionals and communitarian actors.

In 2024 we have increased competencies of the participants to deliver PM+ intervention as PM+helpers by providing knowledge and information on PM+ approach and practicing skills that are necessary for delivery of the PM+ methodology. The participants, through working as a team were able to collaborate more effectively in the network of community members, lay people but also for professionals who may have a mental health background and/or are working in the field and are in contact with refugee population. 8 days hybrid training (22nd of July to 31st of July): face to face held in Bucharest and on-line.

The STEP IN project was financed by the European Commission and was implemented in partnership with Terre des hommes - Romania, JRS Romania, SOS Villaggi dei Bambini - Italia, Terre des hommes Hellas - Γη των ναρωνη Centro Penc, and Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore.

## **IURTS Sports and movement in the integration of Ukrainian children**

Number of beneficiaries: 79

The main purpose of the IURTS project was using sport activities and best practices related to movement, games and creativity, in the integrating process of forced displaced persons in the context of the Ukrainian crisis.

In Romania and Poland, the physical education teachers learned together new activities and practices aimed at helping Ukrainian students in class. Teachers involved in the project have collected best practices and materials to support efforts to integrate Ukrainian children through sports, with a focus on collaboration with schools and sports clubs. The main mission was to give them more self-confidence - and beyond physical education classes - an important skill in their integration process in a new country.

Terre des hommes has continued to use its expertise in child protection standards and managed the coaching sessions for the MGSC tools (Movement, Games, Sports and Creativity) adopted by 15 physical education and sports teachers. MGSC is a unique methodology that uses sports, games and creativity as a psychosocial tool to ultimately develop the personal and social skills of vulnerable children.

The project was financed by Erasmus + programme and has made use of the experience of 6 partners from Romania, Poland, Slovenia, Great Britain and Italy, through multi-disciplinarity effort.

This report was elaborated with data provided by project and programme managers in Terre des hommes Romania. **Thank you for taking an interest in our work!**

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**Every child in the world has the right to a childhood!**

**You can also contribute to our mission and support us through donations or sponsorships! There is still so much to do for all the children in need.**



**Terre des hommes**

Helping children worldwide.