



Terre des hommes

Helping children worldwide.



TERRE DES HOMMES FOUNDATION

# Annual Report 2024

## ROMANIA

# Introduction

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 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, Terre des hommes Foundation is active since 1992, and has had thousands of beneficiaries every year.

**In Romania, we have two main areas of intervention:**

**Supporting migrant children** 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.

**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 law and friendly practices for children, with focus on mental balance and resilience.

# What children say about our activities together

"No one has ever done so much for us" (teenager at the activities at the Resilience & Innovation Facility in Bucharest).



"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).

"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)

# 2024 in Numbers

7.738

total of unique  
beneficiaries  
reached through support in  
Romania (children, youth and  
parents)

20

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

€ 3.869.464

Budget of our projects for  
children in Romania



## Institutional Partners

Ministry of National Education, The National Authority for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Children and Adoptions, The General Inspectorate for Immigrations, Social Services from Bucharest, Dolj, Olt, Gorj, Neamt counties.

National Agency Against Human Trafficking, National Administration of Penitentiaries, Educational Centres from Buziaș, Târgu Ocna, Craiova, Tichilești, National Probation Directorate, School Inspectorate Ploiești.

Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest, Faculty of Social Work Craiova, National College of Social Workers.

## Donors

**In 2024, these were our most important 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 Foundation, Active Citizens Fund Romania program.

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.

# Access to Justice Programme

We are one of the few organisations protecting the rights of youth in contact with the law in Romania.

We believe 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**

## **Beneficiaries: 489**

The i-RESTORE 2.0 project sought to incorporate the concept of Restorative Justice into the Romanian legal framework. It primarily aimed to support professionals who worked with children involved in the justice system, helping them better understand children's needs and ensure their meaningful engagement in a fair process.

## **Key Objectives:**

- Empower children, including victims, to express their views on restorative justice through digital and child-led creative methods.
- Raise awareness among families, practitioners, policymakers, and the media about restorative justice for children in criminal cases.
- Enhance the number of practitioners equipped to provide child-friendly restorative justice services.

**The project operated across Romania, Greece, the Netherlands, and Estonia, with co-funding from the European Union.**

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

### **Twinning Arrangements**

In February 2024, a Romanian delegation, which included youth members from the Child Advisory Board and justice professionals, visited Estonia. In March, the Estonian delegation traveled to Romania to gain insights into local practices.

### **Training with the Safety in Schools Directorate – Police Institution**

A one-day workshop was conducted with personnel from the Safety in Schools Directorate of the Romanian Police, across 12 counties in Romania, all of whom work directly with students to prevent violence and criminal activity.

### **Sessions Included:**

- Discussions surrounding restorative justice.
- Presentation of materials created by youth to promote the concept.

The main focus was on the game developed by the youth, which is set to be implemented nationally in at least 40 schools. This initiative aims to achieve nationwide coverage and ensure the sustainability of the project.

The Child Advisory Board in Romania developed an engaging board-game on restoring justice called “Reconciliation Race,” which was presented at the Final European Conference during a Child-led workshop. This resource can be played by children aged nine and up, as well as adults involved in Romania's justice system who wish to deepen their understanding of restorative justice.



We distributed 90 copies in Romanian and 10 copies in English to schools, organizations, and public institutions, including the Police and the National Administration of Penitentiaries.





# i-ACCESS MyRights



i-ACCESS MyRights, funded by the European Commission (2023–2025), is an innovative initiative that utilises artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance children's access to legal information and assistance.

## **Key Highlights:**

- **Child-Centred Approach:** The initiative promotes an AI-driven solution focused on children.
- **Multilingual AI Chatbot:** A generative AI chatbot has been successfully developed to offer child-friendly, reliable, and accessible legal information.
- **Target Audience:** This resource is designed for children who experience or witness abuse, violence, or become involved in legal proceedings.
- **Implementation:** The chatbot is currently operational in Romania, Greece, and Bulgaria, ensuring accessibility in multiple languages.

# 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, in close cooperation with child justice authorities in Bulgaria, Ireland, and Romania.

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.

Project was funded by the European Union Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV-2022-DAPHNE).

# CARING – Challenging social and gender norms to protect children in schools against violence

**Beneficiaries: 1332**

CARING (2023-2025) is a project dedicated to combating harmful social and gender norms within four implementing countries, particularly within the school setting.

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.



## Key activities:

- Capacity Building: Training educational staff and management to address gender-based violence against children, empowering them to transform harmful gender relations.
- Peer Support Programme: Establishing a programme for educational staff to support each other in handling situations where children may be at risk, discussing gender issues, and developing strategies to prevent violence.
- Youth Leader Trainings: Conducting 3-day face-to-face trainings for youth leaders in schools to promote positive behaviours.

## CARING – Challenging social and gender norms to protect children in schools against violence

- Child-led initiatives by the project manager focused on school safety through surveys and peer interviews. Children developed solutions to create safe spaces, addressing social and gender norms. In Romania, these initiatives included designing 'safe spaces' with positive messages and activities, along with a theater play to raise awareness about bullying.



- Thematic parents' meetings focused on addressing school violence and gender-based violence (GBV). Parents learned about school activities and discussed how to support their children in combating and preventing these issues.
- A webinar for teachers examined violence against and among children in Romanian schools, highlighting how gender influences these issues. It addressed why boys experience more physical abuse while girls are more susceptible to cyberbullying and sexual violence.

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

### **Beneficiaries: 429**

The PRECISION project 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.

- In 2024, the PRECISION 2 initiative conducted activities using the MGSC methodology, engaging 199 children and youth across four centers.
- Mentoring supported 45 individuals, encouraging open discussions about their experiences and needs. Vocational training was provided in digital competencies and haircutting at various centers, along with creative activities like dance, theatre, and painting.
- A media awareness campaign included a press trip that resulted in articles and broadcasts highlighting youth needs.
- A significant achievement was the establishment of a FabLab in Tichilesti Detention Centre, where 78 vulnerable youth developed useful skills and showcased their creations at public events.



# VOICE -Voicing concerns for children in detention

## Beneficiaries: 63

A Young Justice Transformers Group was formed by 14 youth at the Craiova Centre to address child-friendly justice and violence against children in detention. Key activities included:

- Prevention sessions: 7 sessions in schools with detained youth and high school students discussing risk behaviours.
- Counselling: 8 psycho-social sessions for detained youth on resilience and conflict resolution.
- European activities: Two rehabilitated boys participated in a caravan, discussing detention issues with representatives from the European Court of Human Rights.

This initiative promotes youth involvement and awareness of rights.

- 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 Buziaş 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.

# Migration Programme

Migration negatively affects children's lives in many ways: families or children leave their home country (or return after long absences) in search of a better life or for peace.

In this field, our priorities are preventing children's and youth's unsafe migration, regardless of their origin, and ensuring 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**

**Beneficiaries: 4.681**

The project aimed at child protection and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) for vulnerable Ukrainian and Arabic-speaking refugee families. It offered case management, individual and group support for children, youth, and mothers, along with digital skills training. Advocacy focused on children's rights, school inclusion, and bullying, while capacity-building sessions improved safeguarding and MHPSS. Collaborations with local schools enhanced integration and referral pathways, and community events fostered connections between Ukrainian and Romanian families.



We offered information, protection assistance, case management, and referrals to Ukrainian families, especially single mothers, large families, and those at risk of discrimination. Support was also provided to vulnerable refugee families from Arabic-speaking countries, including Syrians, Iraqis, and children from Gaza.



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.



We gathered children, families, and Romanian communities to celebrate various occasions, including Women’s Day, Easter, Children’s Day, Ukrainian Culture Day, Sports Day, and Christmas, with participation ranging from 150 to 500 individuals.



### **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.

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

## **Number of beneficiaries: 50**

The SUN project is dedicated to promoting the effective enjoyment of rights outlined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (CFREU) for unaccompanied and separated refugee and migrant children (UASC).

**Project Duration:** Started in April 2023 and spans 24 months.

**Funding:** Supported by a grant from the European Commission.

**Partnerships:** In collaboration with organizations from six EU countries: Bulgaria, Italy, Greece, Spain, Belgium, and the Netherlands.

## **Objectives:**

- **Strengthening Capacity:** Enhancing the ability of professionals to safeguard the rights of unaccompanied migrant minors in accordance with the CFREU.
- **Facilitating Cooperation:** Promoting collaboration among key stakeholders at both national and transnational levels.



# 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.

# BUILDING BRIDGES FOR THE REFUGEE COMMUNITY

- 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

The Well-U project has trained 279 professionals, including social workers and educators, to support Ukrainian refugees.

Its goal was to create an integrated support system addressing medical, psychological, and social needs for refugees, particularly children affected by trauma.

In 2024, training focused on enhancing personal and social skills through play, sports, and creativity to improve resilience and psychosocial well-being.



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

The STEP IN project supported 52 beneficiaries by enhancing the capacity of non-specialized professionals to address refugees' mental health needs using the Problem Management + (PM+) approach.

In 2024, participants improved their skills to deliver PM+ interventions as helpers through knowledge sharing and practice, fostering better collaboration among community members and professionals.

***These two projects were funded by the European Commission.***



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



The IURTS project aimed to integrate 79 forcibly displaced persons, particularly Ukrainian students, through sports and movement activities amid the Ukrainian crisis. Physical education teachers in Romania and Poland collaborated to learn new practices to support these students.

They collected best practices to enhance integration, focusing on building self-confidence and essential skills. Terre des hommes led coaching sessions for 15 teachers using the MGSC methodology, which utilises sports as a psychosocial tool to develop vulnerable children's skills.

*Funded by the Erasmus+ programme, the project involved six partners from Romania, Poland, Slovenia, Great Britain, and Italy.*



**Thank you for taking an interest in our work!**

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tdh.ro <http://www.facebook.com/TdhRomania>

<http://www.linkedin.com/showcase/terredeshommesromania>

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[www.instagram.com/innovationhub\\_rif/](http://www.instagram.com/innovationhub_rif/)

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

You can also contact us at: **[rou.office@tdh.org](mailto:rou.office@tdh.org)**