



Children and Youth on the Move in Romania



up

8

projects implemented in 2024

6,640

direct and indirect beneficiaries in 2024
53% child
47% adult

3.2M CHF

multi-annual financial volume for the migration projects active in 2024

In 2024...

- **166,849** refugees, **629** asylum seekers, and **291** stateless persons
- Over **80,500** Ukrainian refugees
- **> 1,825** refugees and **7,383** asylum seekers abroad
- **24%** of the Romanian population lives abroad, **90%** in Europe
- **55%** human trafficking victims are children

Context

Country of origin

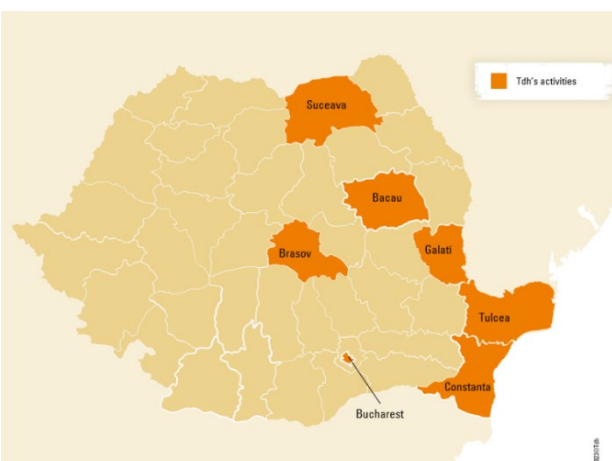
Since the 1989 Revolution and Romania's EU accession, more than 4M Romanian citizens have emigrated abroad, mostly to other European countries. Primary reasons are better employment and educational opportunities abroad for young people due to the paradox of a low general unemployment rate and a high youth unemployment rate. The level of tertiary education is one of the lowest in the EU. Romania has the highest poverty rate in the EU, with 41% of children born at risk of poverty or social exclusion.

Thousands of children are left behind in Romania with one or both parents working abroad, especially in poorer communities. Roma children are overrepresented at 28% in institutional care and are vulnerable to exploitation. Romania is a primary source country for sex and labour trafficking in Europe. Those particularly at risk are girls around 14 years old who drop out of school, primarily from socio-economically excluded Roma communities.

Country of transit and destination

Following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Romania is increasingly a recipient of immigration flows. Romania has become a frontline actor in the reception of people fleeing Ukraine. In 2024, the Romanian Border Police registered over 2.8 million border crossings from Ukraine and around 1.1 million from Moldova, marking a gradual decline compared to 2023 as return movements increased. Approximately 175,000 Ukrainian refugees continued to benefit from temporary protection in Romania. Many refugees still face challenges in accessing housing, healthcare, education, and employment, Romania is a popular transit country to join Western Europe by bypassing the strict Hungary-Serbia border, mainly for citizens from Bangladesh, India, Afghanistan, and Syria citizens. 25% of new arrivals in Romania are children, with Unaccompanied and Separated Children making up 2/3 of these. 2,467 asylum applications from non-Ukrainian refugees were submitted in 2024, all of whom present similar needs to Ukrainian refugees but are disadvantaged by not being included in the Temporary Protection EU directive.

Map of CYM intervention



2024/10

Tdh CYM Projects in Romania

In 2024, the **8 CYM projects** active in Romania focused on:

- Raising **employment and entrepreneurial skills** of young people affected by migration and from Youth Detention Centres (Solidarity FabLab)
- Protecting and accompanying **unaccompanied minors**
- Supporting **Ukrainian refugee children, youth, and families** through:
 - Strengthening child protection, psychological support, and education and long-term safeguarding practices, especially for unaccompanied and separated children and children left behind
 - through international networks in sport organizations across Europe to support their integration
 - Supporting the protection framework on transnational families in relation to labor migration
- **MHPSS** services and awareness-raising, including among non-professionals.
- Challenging social and gender norms to reduce violence against children in school, including children with a migration background and/or affected by migration.

Local partners

Asociatia Judeteana "Sportul Pentru Toti" Suceava, Babes-Bolyai University of Romania, Technological High School of Targu Ocna, and the Youth Detention Center, Foundation for Access to Rights, various public institutions and local NGOs

Alignment with Theory of Change

- Target groups:** Focus on children and youth in pre-mobility, on the move, fixed in the migration process, and left behind
- Information (Pathway 1):** Learning and mainstreamed within and beyond the actors involved
- Protection (Pathway 2):** CYM are better protected and accompanied along migratory routes and in crisis contexts
- (Re)integration (Pathway 3):** CYM are better integrated in their society
- Advocacy (Pathway 4):** Multi-stakeholder coordination is established to strengthen community level safety nets and resilience

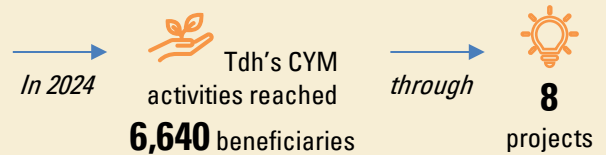
Differentiation approach: Protective Accompaniment

Priority areas of intervention:

1. Supporting psychosocial wellbeing and building resilience of CYM
2. Strengthening systems and services
3. Enabling CYM and their families as actors in their protection, development, and advocacy

Integration with PrEx: Child Protection; Gender and Diversity

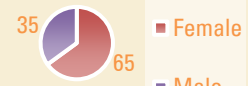
CYM 2023 Key Data in Romania



Age (%)



Gender (%)



3,099 children, including Unaccompanied and Separated Children and others at risk, benefited from MHPSS intervention, including case management.

3,263 children, youth, families and communities' affected by migration benefited from training, counselling and awareness raising events.

825 children and youth (re) enrolled in formal or non formation educational services.



Contact

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Sources: Tdh, IOM, UNHCR



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