



©Tdh

**7,738**

children and adults benefitted from our activities and services in 2024

**1,332**

beneficiaries reached through our project preventing violence in schools in 2024

**20**

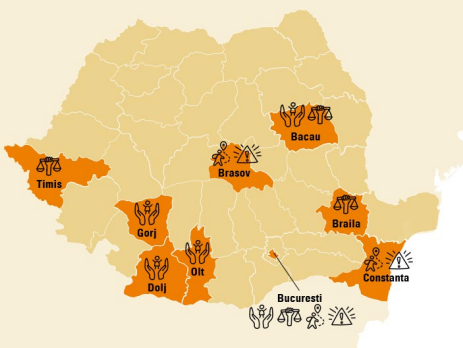
publications and video resources created for awareness or capacity building in 2024

## Context

The year 2024 saw Romania marked by significant political turbulence, increasing polarization, social unrest, and a fragmented political landscape. Economic growth remains uneven, with urban areas like Bucharest and Cluj-Napoca benefitting from foreign investment and infrastructure development, while rural regions continue to grapple with poverty and limited access to services.

Despite strategic plans launched by the Ministries of Education, Labour, and Family for the 2024-2027 period, Romania continues to face a critical situation, with 33% of children at high risk of poverty and social exclusion.

## Intervention map



## General overview

In 2024, Terre des hommes Romania (Tdh) continued its mission to protect children's rights, building on 30 years of dedicated work in the country.

Our two major programmes in Romania are *Children and young people on the move*, which includes our response to the Ukrainian crisis, and *Access to justice for children and young people*. Each programme comprises multiple projects funded by institutional donors who entrusted us to offer our expertise and support to children and vulnerable communities.

We are particularly recognized for:

- Promoting (child) safeguarding and developing related procedures and guidance;
- Strengthening the capacity of professionals in child protection, education, and justice through new resources, training programmes, and exchanges;
- Fostering meaningful child and youth participation, including by embedding child-led initiatives in almost all our projects.

## Our thematic priorities



We strengthen the resilience and improve the wellbeing of **children and young people on the move** by supporting their integration and ensuring their protection and safeguarding.



We work to ensure that all children and young people have **access to child-friendly, inclusive and restorative justice**.



To **protect children against any form of abuse**, we mobilise communities to prevent risk situations, train professionals, and build the resilience of children and young people.



Our **support for Ukrainian refugee children and families** ranges from responding to psychosocial needs to facilitating their long-term integration.

## Our impact in 2024

### Children and young people on the move

Mental health was at the centre of most of our projects. We offered consultations and psychosocial support services, and we trained both caregivers and non-mental health professionals. Our tailored methodologies strengthened the capacity of professionals to support individuals even without a background in mental health. We also provided case management and referral services to vulnerable families from the Ukrainian and Arabic-speaking communities of refugees. In addition, we created support groups and events for children, youth, and mothers, which played an essential role and contributed to the mental wellbeing of refugees and migrants in four regions in Romania.

### Access to justice for children and young people

To help reduce violence among and against youth, we have worked with both teenagers in schools and young offenders in four educational and detention centres across Romania. In schools, we promoted a deeper understanding of the mechanisms behind violence and raised awareness among adults. In the centres, we successfully improved the social resilience and wellbeing of young people, aiming to reduce recidivism and support their reintegration into society. Partnerships with the Police, the National Administration of Penitentiaries, and the educational and detention centres have been essential to this effort.

### In the spotlight: Promoting wellbeing and reducing recidivism among juvenile offenders in Romania

Over the past two years, the **Precision 2** project has worked to promote the wellbeing of juvenile offenders in Romania and reduce recidivism. In 2024, children and young people developed empathy and teamwork through sports, while also preparing for their future by having discussions with mentors or following vocational trainings in four educational and detention centers. Creative activities helped them discover and develop their talents. Additionally, in the FabLab established and equipped by Tdh at Tichilești Detention Centre, 78 vulnerable youth learned and practiced technical skills. Finally, to raise public awareness of these young people's needs, we invited media representatives to visit a detention centre and engage directly with the youth.

## Outlook

Our digital skills and education spaces in Bucharest and Brasov remain an innovative solution to challenges like school dropout and social exclusion. They provide children and youth with safe spaces and protection services, access to technology, valuable knowledge, and meaningful connections, both at professional and personal level. We aim to make these spaces the core of our mental health support and technology education programmes, two essential pillars for building a brighter future for vulnerable children in Romania.

## Advocacy

Our advocacy initiatives amplified the voices of Ukrainian youth. As members of our Child Advisory Boards, they met with representative of public institutions and student bodies in order to present their priorities. Our focus was on the rights of unaccompanied and separated children and combating discrimination and bullying against young migrants.

## Main partners and donors

**Partners:** Romania's Ministry of Education, National Child Protection Authority, National Administration of Penitentiaries, National Probation Direction, Directorate for School Safety.

**Donors:** European Union, UNHCR – The UN Agency for Refugees, Oak Foundation, the Crisis and Support Center of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France, Austrian Development Agency, EEA and Norway Grants (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway), Active Citizens Fund Romania, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development through the Migration Partnership Facility, the City of Zurich, Z Zurich Foundation, Medicor, Swiss Solidarity, Orange.



*"I would like to turn back time, to change my behaviour and my lifestyle. I want my family to be proud of me."*

Valerică, a young boy in a detention center.

## Contact

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**As the leading Swiss child rights organisation, created in 1960, Terre des hommes stands together with children to uphold their rights, protect their lives and improve their well-being. In 2024, we supported over 5.8 million children and members of their communities in 27 countries.**



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Helping children worldwide.