



9110

children and youth benefited from our activities and services in 2022

3209

professionals were trained in 2022 to provide improved child protection services

8

counties in Romania where our intervention took place in 2022

Context

With the beginning of the war in Ukraine, our teams in Romania have adapted their usually development activities and strived to respond to the immediate needs of children, youth and mothers arriving in Romania. We have also responded to psychosocial and mental health needs of refugee families, and offered individual assistance tailored for different situations. Our intervention has supported approx 11,000 refugees, 10% of the Ukrainians in Romania.

At the same time, we continued our work to strengthen the child protection and justice systems in Romania.

Intervention map



General overview

Terre des hommes (Tdh) has been active in Romania continuously since 1992, contributing to the improvement of the child protection system and to the reform of social assistance. Each year, thousands of children and parents benefit from Tdh projects in Romania.

Our three major programmes are Children and young people on the move, Access to justice for children and young people, and Transversal child protection. To this, in 2022 we have added the Emergency support for Ukrainian refugees in Romania.

We are particularly known for:

- Promoting the concept of (child) safeguarding and developing related procedures and guidance;
- Strengthening the capacity of child protection, education and justice professionals through new resources, trainings, and exchanges;
- Encouraging 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.



Against imprisoning and discrimination, we work towards ensuring 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 their urgent needs and providing psycho-social support to facilitating their long-term integration.

Results in 2022

Children and young people on the move

- A specific methodology was developed within ICAM project (Inclusion of Children Affected by Migration) which aims at changing European schools into more friendly and more inclusive environments for migrant children.
- A unique research on transnational families was conducted by our partners in the CASTLE action-project "Children left at home as a result of labor migration".

Access to justice for children and young people

- We intensified efforts to integrate accessible quality restorative justice processes in the lives of children in contact with the law, while also strengthening the access to legal assistance for them. We trained lawyers, who learned how to work with traumatised children to help them in court.

Child protection

- As violence is threatening the physical and mental health of children in various environments, Tdh has initiated several long-term prevention and intervention projects. Teachers, social workers and sports professionals are trained to raise awareness and reduce violence in schools, sports clubs etc.

Support for Ukrainian refugees

Besides responding to their immediate needs, our teams offered Ukrainian families the chance to connect with the Romanian community. At the same time, we informed the parents about educational options for their children, as any interruption or lack in this field can cause irreversible damage. In Bucharest, a summer school, several workshops and a permanent 3D laboratory have been set up and hundreds of teens participated, developing their talents and feeling encouraged to continue their education. Socialising and integration events involved adults and children equally, while bringing the two cultures together in friendly spaces.

Learn more [here](#) about the activity of our Resilience and Innovation Facilities in Bucharest and Brasov.

"I feel safe and protected in Romania, like I used to at home. I am learning Romanian, and I already know many words. That helps me communicate with my peers and gives me the feeling that I am not a stranger here, that I am not abandoned."

Timofey, 11 years old

Outlook

In 2023, one of our main goals is to promote the concept of safeguarding in Romania and show how it can and must be applied in several contexts. Another important area of our work is advancing restorative justice, with a focus on supporting young people in contact with the law and preventing conflict and violence. In the meantime, the programme supporting Ukrainian refugees has shifted on the inclusion of children and their families.

Terre des hommes (Tdh) is the leading Swiss organisation for children's aid. Each year, we provide direct and indirect assistance to over four million children and their families in more than 30 countries through our health, protection and emergency relief programmes.

Advocacy

Tdh has created a Consultative Migrant Forum in Romania, composed of eleven young migrants who are willing to advocate for the rights of migrants in Romania. They will establish a direct representation structure to improve migrants' access to fundamental rights and public services. A second goal is to promote a common standard related to the work with unaccompanied minors to be adopted by public institutions.

Main partners and donors

Partners: Romania's Ministry of Education, National Child Protection Authority, National Administration of Penitentiaries, National Probation Direction.

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, Swiss Solidarity Foundation.



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