



OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN



Salvați Copiii
Save the Children Romania

2022 Annual Report

A woman with long blonde hair, wearing a red t-shirt with 'Salv' and 'op' visible, is holding a large blue fabric over a group of children in a playroom. The children are running and playing. One child in the foreground is wearing a white sweatshirt with 'AMOUR Paris' printed on it. The room has colorful mats on the floor and various toys and decorations on the walls.

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Mother and child dedicated area for Ukrainian refugees - North Railway Station, Bucharest.

OUR VISION

Save the Children's vision is a world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation.

OUR MISSION

Save the Children's mission is to inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children, and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.

OUR VALUES

Accountability, Ambition,
Collaboration, Creativity, Integrity

The values we believe in

Accountability

We take personal responsibility for using our resources efficiently, achieving measurable results, and being accountable to supporters, partners and, most of all, children.

Ambition

We are demanding of ourselves and our colleagues, set high goals and are committed to improving the quality of everything we do for children.

Collaboration

We respect and value each other, thrive on our diversity, and work with partners to leverage our global strength in making a difference for children.

Creativity

We are open to new ideas, embrace change, and take disciplined risks to develop sustainable solutions for and with children.

Integrity

We aspire to live to the highest standards of personal honesty and behaviour; we never compromise our reputation and always act in the best interests of children.

Dear Friends,

This was a year when we discovered, together, that we have the strength to move mountains, if that is what it takes to guarantee children's access to life safety, education, and health, throughout their childhood. We did not need to move mountains, but rather to stand shoulder to shoulder and create a big human shield of solidarity for children driven away from their homes, fathers and friends by a cruel war. Since the early days of the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, Romanians have proven steadfast empathy and we have been there on the ground at all border checkpoints to provide humanitarian assistance. From the mothers who walked for miles with their children in their arms and a toy in their backpacks, we learned that our strength is solidarity.

Solidarity has made it possible for 231,853 people, including 125,660 Ukrainian children and 106,193 adults (women, elderly, men with medical waivers, extended families) to benefit from material support, basic information translated into their native tongue, psycho-social support, legal, financial, and educational counselling, depending on their needs.

You have opened your hearts in the face of the tragedy experienced by the refugee children in Ukraine and you have shown devotion to Romania's vulnerable children. This was the year when the record for generosity was broken during the Festival of the Christmas Trees, an edition organised in partnership with the **National Art Museum of Romania**. A total of €820,000 was raised and will be used to ensure access to education for 12,000 children. This was also the year when the country's maternity clinics and paediatric wards were improved so that the right to health for children and mothers is no longer a privilege. 40,000 new-borns received support and 120,000 mothers were given information and support to better care for their babies.

Save the Children has expanded its advocacy component and has pushed the authorities to develop integrated public policies that restore the right to education for children from families with low economic resources and to stop allowing those in conflict with the law to decide the lives of the communities where children live.

We would like to thank our colleagues for their dedication and determination, our partners for their extraordinary support and our volunteers for their boundless positive energy! Thank you to each and everyone of you because nothing would have been possible without a joint effort. You have made your contribution to the good we have done and that has translated into outstanding outcomes for children. The path ahead will not be easy either, but we now know that superhuman powers are actually born out of solidarity and empathy.

Thanks to the Board members: *Liviu Sfrija, Camelia Şucu, Liviu Drăgan, Măriuța Simionescu, Daniel Badea, Ioana Atasiei and Iulian Trandafir.*

Much consideration to the branch presidents: *Dumitra Sima, Măriuța Simionescu, Carmen Andrei, Cornelia Pasăre, Ivona Viviana Brădescu-Bădulescu, Ioana Atasiei, Meda Neagoe, Eugen Simion and Vasile Mariciuc, and to the local coordinators: Daniela Zoe, Loredana Turiceanu, Carmen Clinci, Daniela Cazan.*



Mihai Gafencu
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mihai Gafencu'.



Gabriela Alexandrescu
Executive President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gabriela'.

Children we reached

449,200

Lives saved - **104,500**

equipping hospitals with state-of-the-art medical devices and equipment, information and support for mothers and pregnant women

Education - **36,500**

support for children and schools from disadvantaged areas, improved conditions at the start of the 2021-2022 school year, information on the right to education

Protection - **153,500**

protection against violence, protection of children with parents in other countries and refugee children, online protection, healthcare, education on how to access protection

Information and participation - **154,700**

information on children's rights, both in real life and online, encouraging children's participation

Experts

15,600

Parents

240,000

Volunteers - **2,800**

Revenue (Euro):

21,188,058



5 key results in 2022

Starting with the 25th of February, the day after the onset of the war and of the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, Save the Children has stood by the Ukrainian refugees at all border crossings with Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, in the Accommodation and Procedures Centres for Asylum Seekers, set out by the General Inspectorate for Immigration, in refugee camps run by the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations (IGSU), in various travel stop points, in integrated service centres set up by Save the Children in several localities and in partner schools. We provided humanitarian assistance to 231,853 people, including **125,660** Ukrainian children and 106,193 adults (women, elderly, men with medical waiver, extended families), as well as material support, translation, psycho-social, legal, financial, educational counselling, depending on the individual needs.

To further its contribution in protecting children against all forms of serious violence, Save the Children has created the **first multidisciplinary Barnahus service in Romania**, which ensures the integrated provision of a comprehensive response (hearing, expertise, medical assessment, psychological counselling and psychotherapy) in cases of sexual abuse and exploitation.

Save the Children continued to support the neonatal and paediatric healthcare system and to enable interventions for pregnant women and mothers with children aged 0-5 years, thus contributing to **the reduction of child mortality rate from 5.6% to 5.2% in one year**. In 2022, 50 healthcare facilities in 28 counties were equipped with state-of-the-art medical devices and equipment worth €1,254,000, ensuring medical protection for 40,000 children, and 3,500 children aged 0-5 years and 3,500 mothers in 20 counties benefited from services meant to improve their health and access to healthcare.

Organization of the most successful edition of the Christmas Tree Festival, in partnership with the National Art Museum of Romania, through which we raised donations worth **€820,000** by auctioning the uniquely created trees, amount which will be used in the development of socio-educational programs.

Adoption by the Romanian Parliament of the proposals to amend Law 272/2004 on the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, drafted by Save the Children in partnership with National Authority for the Protection of Child's Rights and Adoption, which focus on regulating the delegation of parental authority in the case of children with parents gone abroad. Furthermore, Save the Children's proposals to block the participation in elections of candidates convicted of crimes involving child victims were also adopted and expanded during the parliamentary debates to include all categories of persons convicted of crimes committed with intent, including against children.

A young woman with long dark hair, wearing a grey t-shirt with a graphic and dark jeans, stands on concrete steps in front of a doorway. She is holding a baby in her arms. The doorway behind her has a white curtain and a number '122' above it. The scene is outdoors with natural light.

Underage mother, 15 years old, Gorbănești Village, Botoșani county, a beneficiary of the programme 'The health of mothers and children in disadvantaged rural areas'.



LIVES SAVED

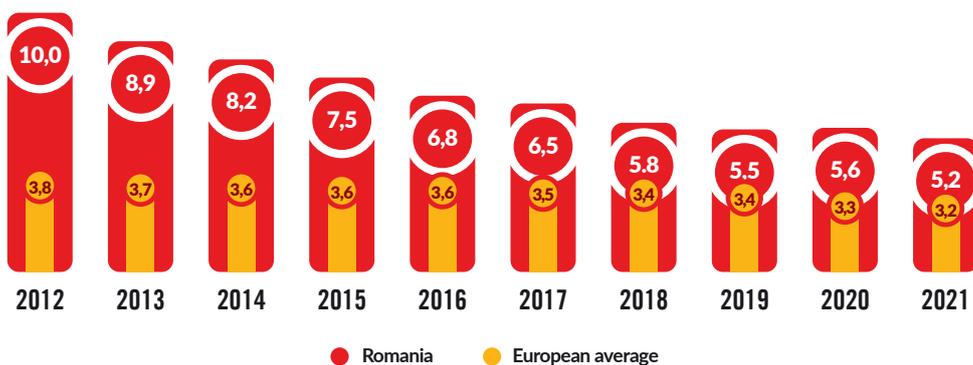
EQUIPPING AND REVAMPING HEALTHCARE FACILITIES - MATERNITY CLINICS AND PAEDIATRIC WARDS

In 2022, 50 healthcare facilities in 28 counties were equipped with state-of-the-art medical devices and equipment worth €1,254,000, thus ensuring the medical protection of **40,000 new-borns**.

To support specialized training for neonatologists, 8 specialist patient bedside ultrasound training courses were held in the counties: Argeş, Braşov, Dolj, Iaşi, Constanţa,

Timis, Bihor and Bucharest, attended by **120 neonatologists** from hospitals across the country.

Healthcare facilities provided with equipment: Aiud Municipal Hospital, Blaj Municipal Hospital, Sebeş Municipal Hospital, Ineu City Hospital, Piteşti Pediatric Hospital, Curtea de Argeş Municipal Hospital, "Dr. Pop Mircea" Marghita Municipal Hospital, Dorohoi Municipal Hospital, Mavromati Emergency County Hospital Botosani, Brăila County Hospital, Children's Clinical Hospital Braşov, Dr. Aurel Tulbure Municipal Hospital Făgăraş, Târlungeni Permanence Centre, Rupea City Hospital, "Alessandrescu-Rusescu" National Institute for Mother and Child Health, "Sfântul Ioan" Emergency Clinical Hospital Bucharest, University Emergency Hospital Bucharest, "Prof. Dr. Panait Sîrbu" Obstetrics-Gynecology Clinical Hospital, Grigore Alexandrescu Children's Emergency Hospital, Doctor Victor Gomoiu Children's Hospital, Caransebeş Municipal Emergency Hospital, Resiţa County Hospital, "Dr. Fogolyan Kristof" Emergency County Hospital Sf. Gheorghe, Moreni



Save the Children's intervention in supporting healthcare facilities has been well received: over the past 10 years alone, the infant mortality rate has dropped from 10 per thousand children born alive to 5.2 per thousand children born alive in 2021 (final data for 2021, NSI & Eurostat, March 2023).

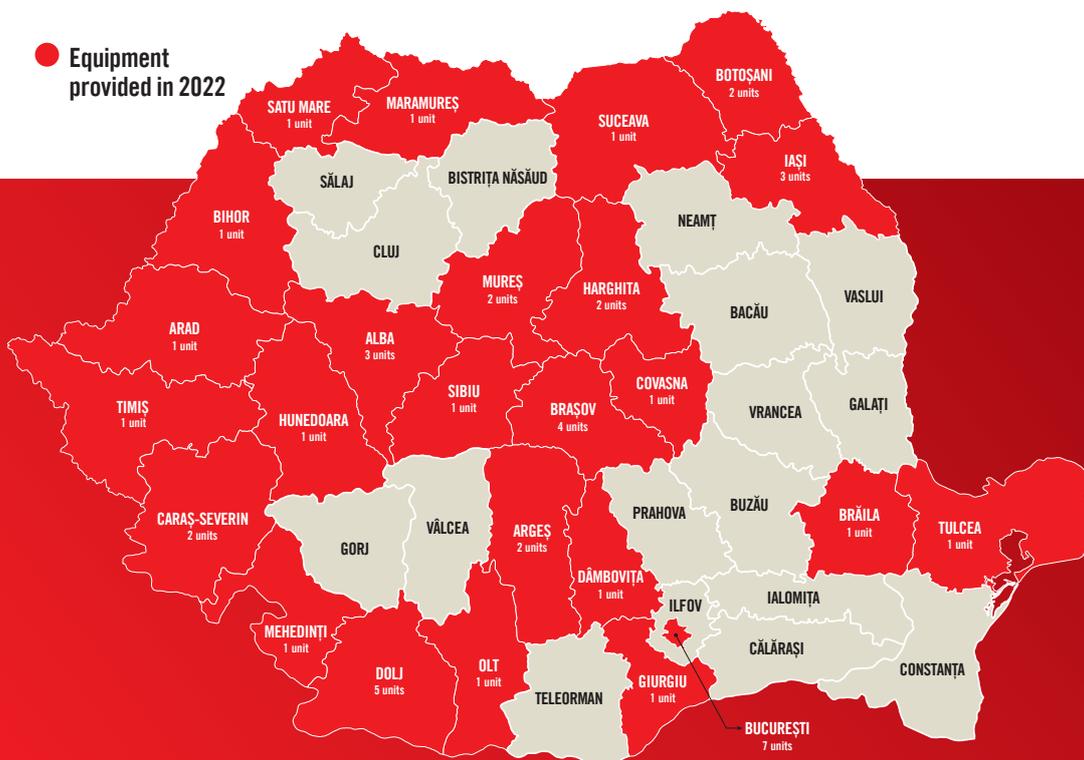
Municipal Hospital, Segarcea City Hospital, Profesor Dr Irinel Popescu Băilești Municipal Hospital, Filantropia Craiova Clinical Hospital, Filișanilor Hospital, Dăbuleni City Hospital, Tg. Bujor City Hospital, Giurgiu County Emergency Hospital, Gheorgheni Municipal Hospital, Miercurea Ciuc County Emergency Hospital, Deva County Hospital, Pașcani Emergency Hospital, "Sf. Maria" Emergency Children's Hospital Iași, "Cuza Voda" Obstetrics and Gynaecology Clinical Hospital Iași, Sighetu Marmației Municipal Hospital, Drobeta Turnu Severin County Emergency Hospital, Târgu Mureș Emergency Institute for Cardiovascular Diseases and Transplant, infant cardiology, Sighișoara Municipal Hospital, Slatina County Emergency Hospital, Câmpina Municipal Hospital, Zalău County Emergency Hospital, Satu-Mare County Emergency Hospital, Cislădie Municipal Hospital, Gura Humorului Hospital, "Louis Țurcanu" Children's Emergency Hospital in Timișoara, Măcin City Hospital.



On the fall of 2017 a little boy named Călin-Mihai was born. The parents' joy was, however, overshadowed by a cruel diagnosis - cancer. In a desperate act, Mihai's parents went to great lengths to raise the money needed to provide the child with specialized treatment at an oncology clinic in France or Belgium. Michael, however, lost the battle against this cruel disease, and his parents' thoughts went to other parents who also sit desperately by the hospital bed, hoping to receive some news that would allow them to rejoice once more. So, they decided to donate the funds raised for Mihai to the Save the Children Organization to equip the Oncology Department of the "Sf. Maria" Children's Hospital in Iasi with a cytostatic mixing machine, the first of its kind in Romania, worth €120,000.

In the photo: Chihaiia Family, Gabriela Alexandrescu, Amalia Năstase, Medical Bioengineer Alina Belu, Hospital Manager, Ioana Atășiei, President of Save the Children Iasi Branch

● Equipment provided in 2022



Partners/Sponsors:
the highest amounts were donated by: OMV Petrom Foundation, Vodafone Foundation, MOL Romania, Fox Com, Libris.ro, Chihaiia family.



8-month-old-baby from Negru-Vodă, Constanța county, a beneficiary of the programme 'The health of mothers and children in disadvantaged rural areas'.

INTEGRATED COMMUNITY SERVICES AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES IN MATERNITY CLINICS

In order to improve the health of mothers, pregnant women and children up to 5 years old, Save the Children develops integrated socio-medical services in rural areas, with the help of healthcare and social workers. **9,000 people in 20 counties** benefited from these services in 2022, including **3,500 children 0-5 years old, 3,500 mothers and pregnant women and 2,000 teenagers and parents**. Health education activities were organized and pregnant women from the South-West Oltenia region benefited from free tests, ultrasounds and check-ups at the Screening Centre in Craiova, part of the Craiova County Emergency Hospital, as well as home monitoring and counselling. Pregnant women from Negru-Vodă - Constanta, Mironeasa - Iasi, Tarlungeni - Brasov, also benefited from ultrasound scans, free tests and gynaecological examinations within the Pregnancy Control Roadshow, organised with the support of the *Caravan with Doctors Association*.

In the Republic of Moldova we have expanded the network of healthcare, social and psychological support, with the revolutionary addition of Mobile Services, which helped 3,000 refugee women, pregnant women and children from Ukraine.

In partnership with the Romanian Senate, in November we launched **Review on the status of mothers and pregnant women under 18 from disadvantaged rural areas** and **Review on the status of pregnant women from disadvantaged communities**. The

debate was attended by authorities with responsibilities in this area, both from Romania and the Republic of Moldova, who pointed out the challenges faced by the health and protection system dedicated to children and pregnant women and advanced a series of recommendations. **100,000 mothers** across the country received information on how to care for their new-borns, the importance of cuddling and tackling postpartum depression and were provided with support kits. Furthermore, **20,000 mothers** from 10 maternity hospitals across the country were given access to alternative means of medical education, delivered through educational videos shared via video communication systems that were installed in the wards.



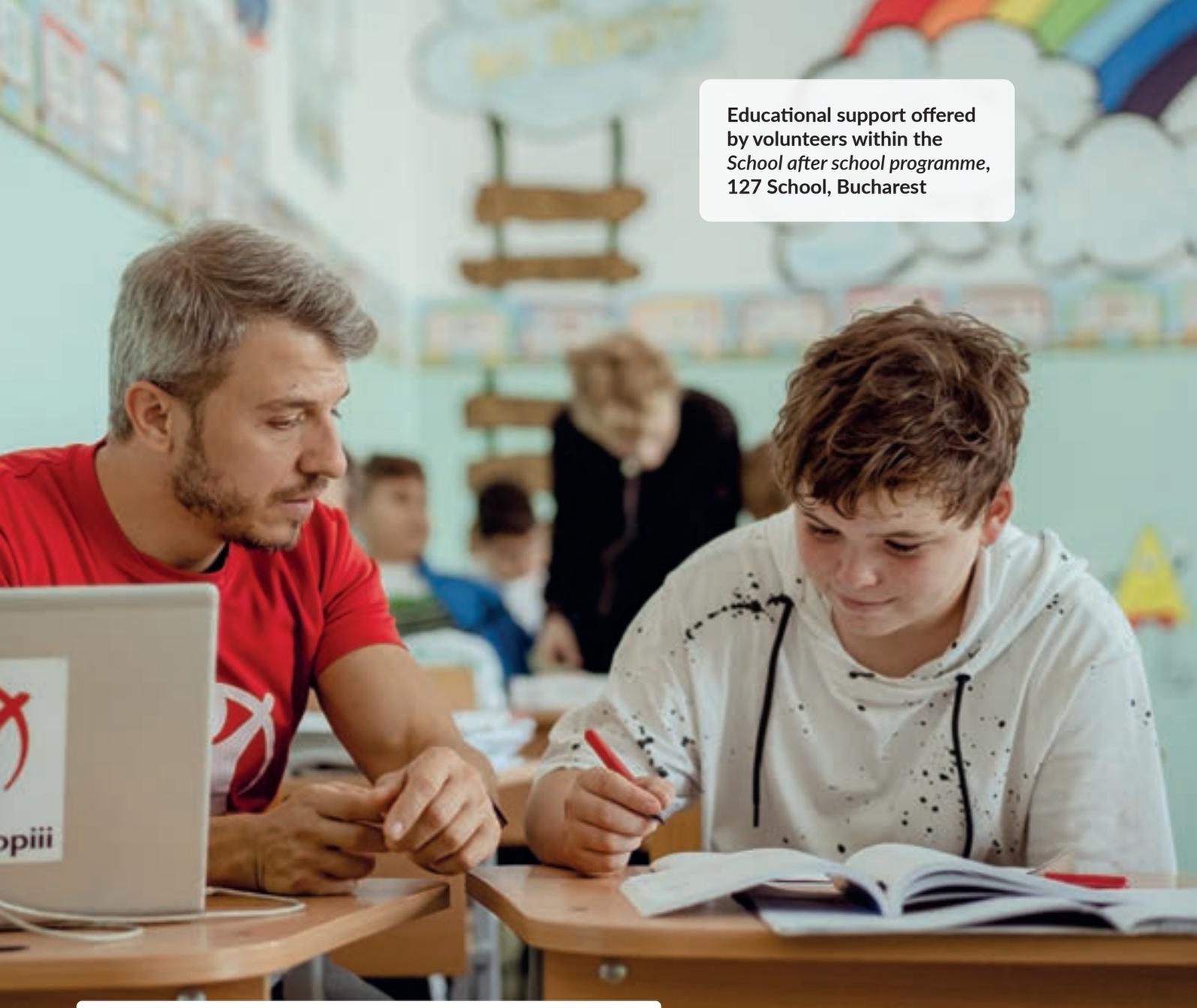
Andreea and Luiza, underage mothers, Tărlungeni village, Braşov county, beneficiaries of the Control Roadshow for girls and women in disadvantaged rural areas.

Partners/Sponsors: MSD, Kimberly-Clark, Ogilvy, Alliance Healthcare Romania, PENNY Romania, Caravan with doctors, European Social Fund through POCU 2014-2020.

LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

With the support of Essilor, Save the Children continued to implement the national programme designed to identify and support visually impaired schoolchildren to correct their vision problems. The programme will become the first national screening programme aimed at identifying and assessing the eyesight of children aged 5 to 17.

Partner: Essilor.



Educational support offered by volunteers within the *School after school programme*, 127 School, Bucharest

ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION

For **1,511,000 children in Romania (41.5%)**, parents are unable to cover the costs of healthy food, quality education and urgent medical treatment. 95% of families with children, beneficiaries of the Save the Children Romania programmes, find themselves unable to fulfil basic needs, amid the socio-economic crisis.

School progress



73%
of the children involved in the programmes registered significant/high educational progress



At STEM subjects (Maths and Science) the percentage of children with good and very good results grew from 21% on entering the programme to 45% at the end of the school year.

+24%



When speaking about the Romanian language class, the percentage of children that had good and very good results grew from 40% on entering the programme to 72% at the end of the school year.

+32%

In 2022, school dropout prevention activities reached **36,500 children**, schools and local authorities. The activities took place in Bucharest and 18 counties and were addressed to children, their parents, but also to protection and education experts.



School after School activities, Uruguay school, Bucharest

12,000 children received direct additional schooling and/or remedial education, emotional support and guidance, as well as informal educational activities. 360 children were integrated in the Summer Kindergartens, 4,345 children benefited from School After School programmes, 150 were part of the Second Chance programmes, and 7,145 children received educational and social support to continue their education.

6,000 parents received material support consisting of social vouchers, food and hygiene products and social care services.

In addition to the summer schools attended by most of the children who were part of the School After School programmes, camps at the mountain side were also organized for 700 Romanian and Ukrainian children.

Throughout the year, 750 children participated in educational workshops on various themes organized at the **National Art Museum of Romania**, thus having the opportunity to get in touch with Romanian art and history. As part of the partnership with **DENT ESTET**, 50 children benefited from dental prophylaxis and treatment services.

24,500 children have benefited from improved educational services as a result of teacher training (130 trained specialists) and the provision of educational materials, supplies, sanitation and transportation to 40 schools.

At the same time, information caravans were organized in rural areas, focusing on children's rights and the importance of education (16 trips to the localities of Bănița, Baru, Pui and Râu de Mori, Hunedoara county), during which more than 100 children and 10 teachers were informed.

130 teachers attended training courses on the latest methods and tools used in the educational process involving children from vulnerable groups.

Partners/Sponsors: the highest amounts were provided by Kaufland Romania, PEPCO Romania, BCR, Terona, Lidl Romania, Catena, Penny Market România, Banca Transilvania, Profi Romania, Human Capital Operational Programme FRDS - EEA and Norwegian Grants.



CHILDREN HOME ALONE

Children left at home after their parents went to work abroad have benefited from comprehensive psychological, educational and social support services to address the needs caused by the separation from their parents. Save the Children successfully achieved the amendment of the provisions meant to ensure the protection of these children in Law 272/2004 on protection and promotion of children's rights (see Advocacy chapter).

Direct services - In 2022, **2,315 children and 1,677 parents and children's representatives** benefited from the activities organised within the local programmes run in collaboration with 40 general schools in Argeș, Brașov, Caraș-Severin, Constanța, Dâmbovița, Dolj, Galați, Hunedoara, Iași, Mureș, Neamt, Olt, Suceava, Timiș, Tulcea, Vaslui, Vâlcea, Vrancea counties and Bucharest.

The interventions aimed at supporting children and their caregivers focused on providing psycho-social counselling, educational support, material support and on organising leisure and social activities. The summer schools combined remedial education programmes with leisure activities, while the camps organized in July and



Educational activities within the programme for children home alone, as a result of parents' economic migration, Suceava.

August offered children the opportunity to go hiking, to do outdoor educational activities and sightseeing, and, for some of them, it was a chance to go to camp for the first time.

Campaign *Stay close to your child!* – Raising awareness of the negative emotional, educational and social effects that the departure of parents can have on children left home alone. In partnership with the Romanian Border Police and the National Airports Company of Bucharest, information activities were carried out at land and air border points, complemented by information events delivered with the help of local authorities, and information caravans for over 1,250 people in 30 localities. Through regional media campaigns, the campaign message reached approximately **920,000 people**. In August, under the slogan "Together everything is better!", we launched a campaign to raise awareness of the importance of spending quality time with the children, in which children, parents returning from abroad, grandparents or other relatives in whose care the children remained participated together in leisure and social activities. We drafted a series of guidelines comprising activities and recommendations which was disseminated in partner schools to incentivize the creation of the right framework for organising such activities in as many schools as possible, and the campaign was also promoted in the media and online.



After the new draft Law 272/2004 on the protection and promotion of children's rights was adopted, which contains improved provisions on the legal protection of children with parents working abroad, we also relaunched the campaign informing on the legal obligations of the parents. On 15 December, in partnership with the Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities and the National Authority for the Protection of Children's Rights and Adoption, we organized the "Protection of children with parents working abroad - legal aspects and good practices in law enforcement" conference which brought together more than 50 participants, representatives of institutions with a role in the education and protection of children, kicking off the campaign which will be continued in 2023.

76% of the children in the programme improved their emotional, social and independent living skills. Over 16,000 unique visitors to the site www.copiisinguriacasa.ro.

Partners/Sponsors: PEPCO Romania, DIGI Romania.

The programme was also supported by the European Social Fund through the POCU.



PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AGAINST VIOLENCE

48,708 children and parents have benefited from therapeutic counselling and parenting education since the opening of the Save the Children counselling centres.

Intervention

In less than two years, we went from pandemic to war. As much as we would have liked, there was no way that these events would not affect children, teenagers and parents psychologically and emotionally. The long-term effects of the pandemic, of the armed conflicts at the country's borders, they all had a significant impact on the mental state and lifestyle of families. The emotional and behavioural imbalance has intensified over the past year among children and adolescents, along with their

need and desire to move past the difficult situations in which they found themselves, as best and as quickly as possible.

Thus, Save the Children provided psychological support to children who were dealing with emotional and behavioural difficulties, due to factors related to the current social context or to being involved in bullying, as well as to their families in the 5 counselling centres in **Bucharest, Timisoara, Târgu Mureş, Iaşi** and **Suceava** and online. Thus, 720 children received individual and group counselling/psychotherapy assessment and therapeutic intervention and 637 parents were integrated into parenting education programmes to develop positive parenting skills. **7,921 counselling sessions** were held free of charge.

Informing and training of specialists

1,956 professionals and parents attended informative sessions on how to manage children's emotional states as effectively as possible, by seeking ways of coping and strengthening resilience to adapt to new social contexts. The period covered has brought with it new challenges, as well as the need to prevent potential negative effects on the long-term physical and mental development of children, adolescents, parents and teachers.

Partner/Sponsor: BCR





PROTECTION OF SEXUALLY ABUSED CHILDREN

One of the important events was the launch of the *Inter-institutional cooperation and advocacy for the protection of children victims of sexual abuse and violence* project, which aims to provide a coherent and tailored response to the needs of beneficiaries with regard to the problem of retraumatization and revictimization of children who are sexually abused or victims of other forms of serious violence. In this sense, we implemented the Barnahus model of response in this field, in partnership with the General Directorate of Welfare and Child Protection district 6 - Bucharest, to bring together all relevant services under one roof. The centre has become operational as of July, providing multidisciplinary services for 20 children and adolescents. As part of the same project, 5 online education sessions were held between April and May, to strengthen the students' view on human rights, equal treatment and tackling all forms of abuse, with the participation of 175 children from Bucharest.

Funder: EEA and Norwegian Grants 2014-2021 (Active Citizens Fund Romania)

www.stopabuz.ro



IMPROVING SCHOOL CLIMATE AND PREVENTING BULLYING

As part of the programme "**Bullying-free schools**", Save the Children organised informative and training sessions for **804 teachers and 947 parents** from **138 schools**, on how to apply educational methods based on positive discipline and how to implement anti-bullying methodological norms. **5,626 children** (of whom 797 became anti-bullying ambassadors in their schools) were involved in these informative and prevention activities. Save the Children facilitated the establishment and functioning of the

ASIGURĂ DREPTUL LA PAUZĂ FĂRĂ BULLYING

Campanie susținută
de Kaufland



anti-bullying action group in 80 partner schools, with another 58 being in the process of also setting up a similar group.

We have extended the first programme to prevent bullying in the preschool environment, called "Let's be friends - Free of Bullying" to a number of **25 kindergartens** in urban and rural areas in Bucharest, Călărași, Dâmbovița, Suceava, Timișoara and Buzău. They were equipped with 120 suitcases with educational materials and 3,970 teddy bears. **3,970 pre-schoolers** improved their social-emotional skills (recognition and expression of emotions; emotional regulation; developing a sense of belonging to the group; developing collaboration skills, autonomy, etc.) and skills to recognize and provide a suitable response to bullying, and **169 teachers** were trained to apply the methodology.

4,500 children (10 to 18 years old) took part in the children's consultation session concerning the bullying phenomenon. Building on this event and with the support of Kaufland Romania, we launched the "Right to a break" campaign, an information and awareness campaign on the role we each play, including teachers, parents, students, in creating a positive educational climate in schools, so that all children feel safe, and breaks are used as a time for relaxation, networking and connecting. We estimate that the "Right to a break" campaign message has reached over 1 million people.

Impact: In 2022, **10,393 children** from the schools and kindergartens involved benefited from an improved educational climate as a result of project's interventions in **163 educational units** in Bucharest, Ilfov, Brașov, Buzău, Ialomița, Dâmbovița, Harghita, Călărași, Vrancea. We have focused on long-term interventions that provide an opportunity for all those involved in the life of kindergartens or schools to understand and practice how they can best support children to feel safe and to strike a balance in their socio-emotional and cognitive development.

Partner/Sponsor: Kaufland Romania



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CHILDREN'S ONLINE SAFETY

THE HELPLINE continued to come to the aid of children, youngsters, parents and teachers in Romania, by providing guidance and support on issues encountered on the internet.

In 2022, 57,000 children and 98,400 adults participated in awareness-raising activities about the online dangers to which children and adolescents are exposed.

More than 600,000 children and over 169,000 adults (teachers, parents and professionals) have been directly involved in educational activities since 2008 to date.



Education & Awareness

Educational activities continued both in schools and online. During these sessions **13,412 children and 12,068 adults** (teachers, parents and education professionals) were directly involved in educational activities on online safety carried out in 500 schools.

We also organised the conference called, "How children's and teenagers' behaviour on the internet has changed after 2 years of pandemic?", celebrating the *Internet Safety Day* on 8 February 2022, and we brought very relevant topics to public attention, in terms of child protection and the proliferation of harmful legal and illegal content accessible to children on the internet. We presented the results of the sociological study on "Internet



use by children and adolescents" and raised the alarm by bringing this issue to public attention. Representatives of the authorities provided procedural details and statistics on the method of working and intervening in cases of sexual abuse against children, and suggested solutions to improve public policy on child safety online.

We have continued to carry out high-impact public awareness and online campaigns with the help of scientists, doctors and responsible influencers such as: Bogdan Oprea, a lecturer at the Faculty of Journalism and Mass Communication, PhD. Mihai Craiu, Dana Rogoz, Princess Urbana, Iulia Ionescu, Lavinia Petrea. The content posted has been viewed by **4,172,919 people**.

In 2022, the number of complaints received through the **reporting line esc_ABUZ remained at a high level - 8,804 requests of which 6,092** depicting illegal harmful content, of which 5,686 were images or material depicting sexual abuse against children. The materials identified were sent by Save the Children experts to the IGPR, where they are being investigated with a view to removing the content from the internet, identifying and assisting the victim and investigating the perpetrators. From 2008 to date, more than 26,535 reports have been made through Save the Children's civil reporting point esc_ABUZ.

Partners/Sponsors: European Commission, Insafe, Inhope, NEPI RockCastle, Endava Romania, OMV Petrom, General Inspectorate of Romanian Police.



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PROTECTION OF REFUGEE, RESETTLED AND ASYLUM-SEEKING CHILDREN

In 2022, as the war in Ukraine started, Save the Children paid particular attention to providing direct services to children, parents and vulnerable adults, developing rapid interventions to respond to emergencies. Apart from the specific response to assist refugees from Ukraine, Save the Children continued to provide assistance to asylum seekers and refugees from other countries affected by internal conflicts who arrive in Romania on a regular basis.

Space dedicated to Ukrainian children - Romexpo, Bucharest.



Ongoing response to support the refugee children in Asylum Centres

In 2022, asylum applications remained on an upward trend, with 6,304 applications (non-UA) registered in the first 9 months of the year. Unlike previous years, in 2022 India became the main country of origin, followed by Bangladesh, Syria and Afghanistan. Of the total applications registered, 709 applications were submitted for minors, with children accounting for approximately 12% of all those seeking international protection. At the same time, the number of unaccompanied minors is decreasing compared to the previous year, when they accounted for about half of all children, vs 28% in 2022. Syria is again the main country of origin, followed by Afghanistan and Somalia.

In order to support migrants, Save the Children carried out activities in the Regional Centres for Procedures and Accommodation for Asylum Seekers in Bucharest, Galați, Rădăuți, Șomcuta Mare and Timișoara, that are under the coordination of the General Inspectorate for Immigration.

We carried out social assistance activities, with a focus on providing material support to cover basic needs, social counselling and information. We distributed packages of hygiene products, food and clothing. We also provided educational support to children to ensure equal access to education and organized educational and leisure activities in specially designed spaces in refugee centres. Packages with educational and leisure materials for children, including tablets, were distributed as needed.

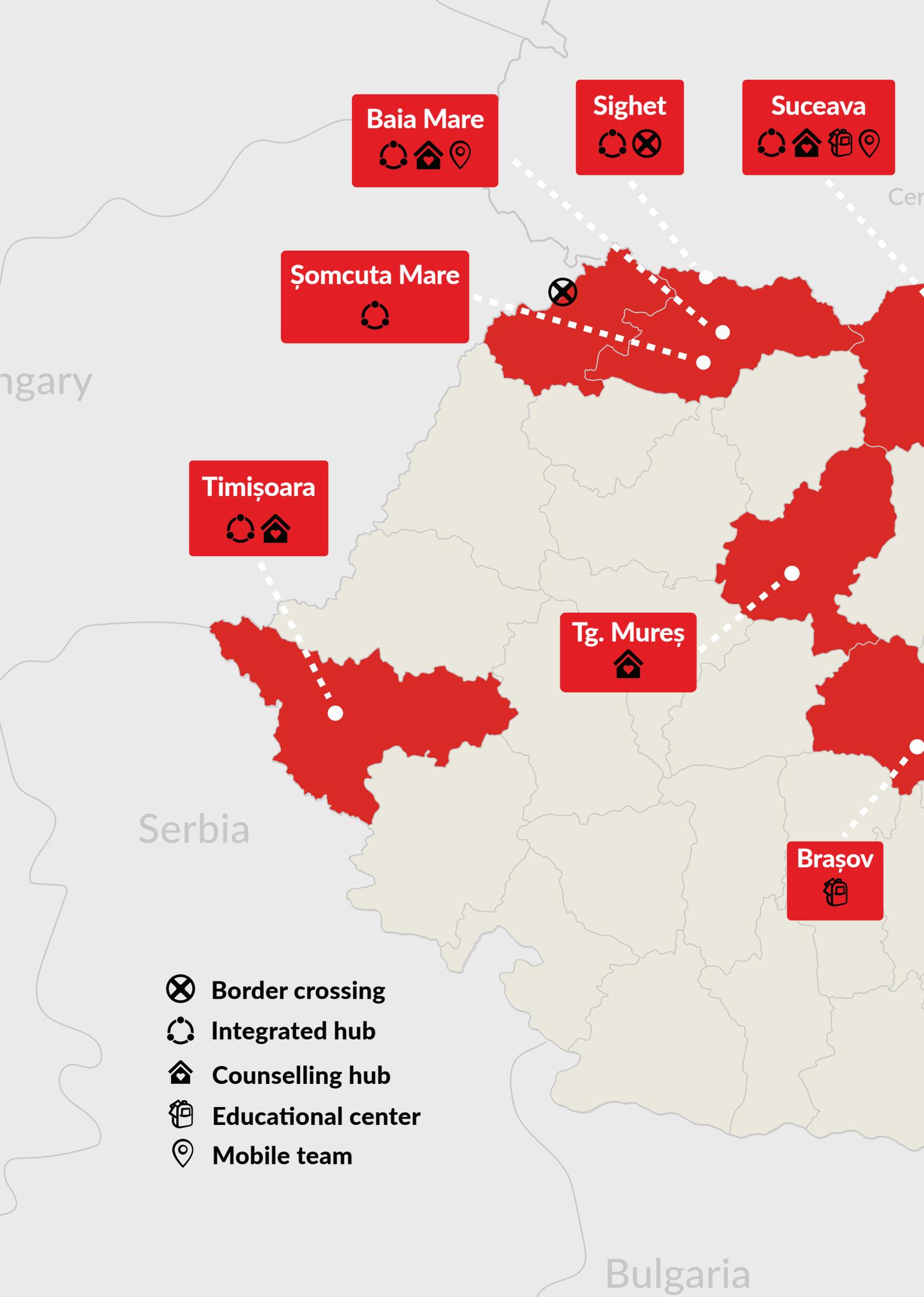
Outcomes: In 2022, Save the Children provided educational and social services (material support, counselling, accompanying children, filing, etc.) for 694 beneficiaries, of whom 332 children (135 unaccompanied minors).

Response Programme for refugees from Ukraine

The escalating conflict in Ukraine which started on 24 February has created a massive humanitarian refugee crisis and continues to have a devastating impact on children. The rapid deterioration of the situation triggered a massive displacement of the civilian population to neighbouring countries. The military aggression against Ukraine has led to an outflow of over 16,867,334 refugees (UNHCR data, 27 December), mostly children and parents, who chose to leave the country by crossing the borders of Romania, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Moldova.

In 2022, 3,209,399 Ukrainian citizens have entered the country since the start of this crisis (24 February). By 25 December, there were 106,629 Ukrainian citizens registered in Romania (UNHCR data). Of those who chose to stay in Romania, 4,397 applied for asylum and 102,729 have temporary stay permits. It is estimated that 45% of Ukrainian refugees in Romania are children. These children need protection, access to education and health care, social and psychological support and opportunities for leisure and social interaction.

Save the Children has stood by the Ukrainian refugees since 25 February, constantly assessing their needs and providing humanitarian assistance, as needed, at border crossing points with Ukraine and Republic of Moldova, in the Accommodation and Procedures Centres for Asylum Seekers of the General Inspectorate for Immigration, in refugee camps coordinated by the IGSU, in various travel stop points, in Integrated Service Centres set up by Save the Children in several localities and in partner schools.



Baia Mare



Sighet



Suceava



Șomcuta Mare



Timișoara



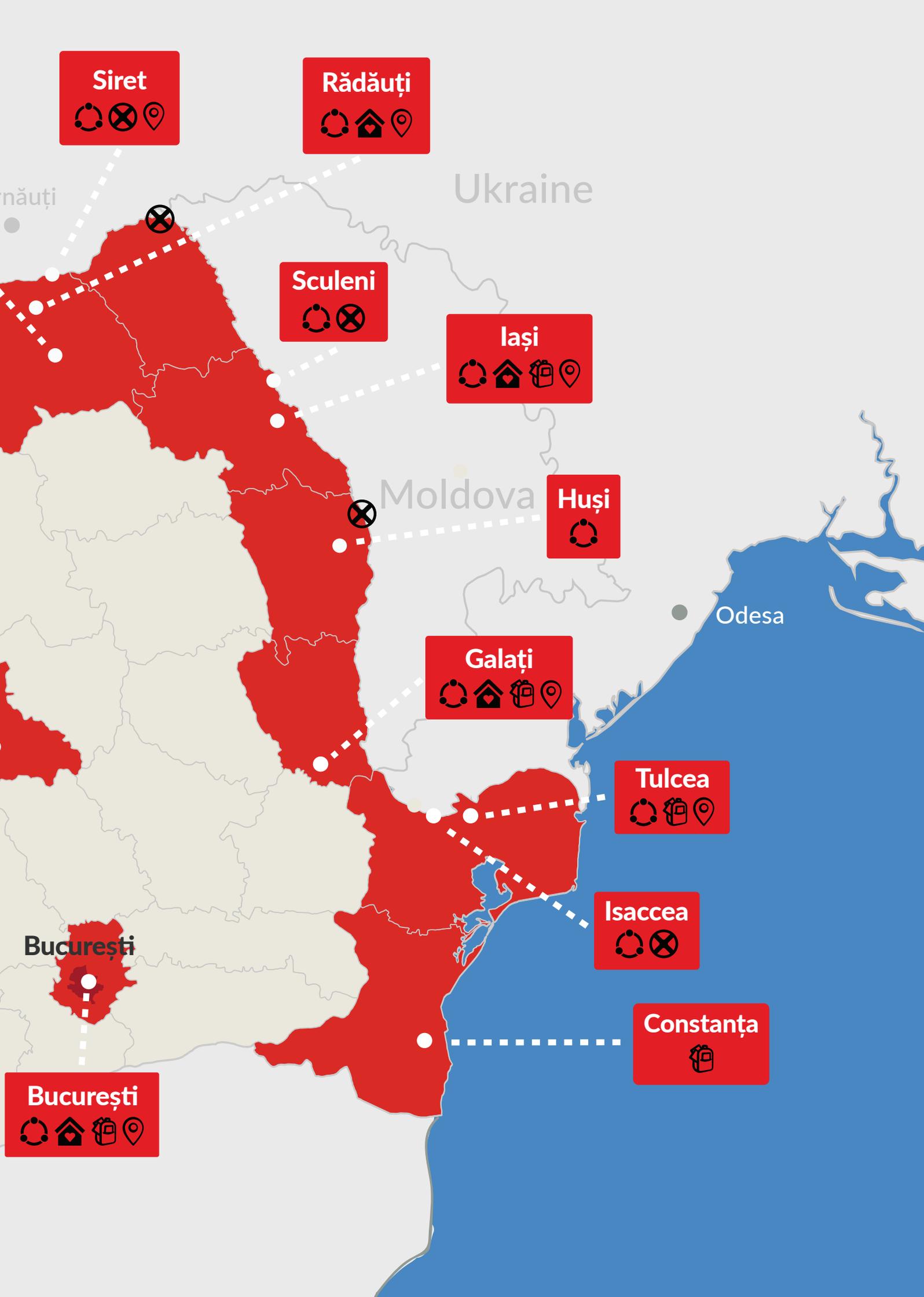
Tg. Mureș



Brașov



-  **Border crossing**
-  **Integrated hub**
-  **Counselling hub**
-  **Educational center**
-  **Mobile team**



Siret



Rădăuți



Sculeni



Iași



Huși



Galați



Tulcea



Isaccea



Constanța



București

București





Outcomes

Since the onset of this crisis and to date, Save the Children has provided material support (basic food, toiletries, clothing, footwear, diapers, pacifiers, baby bottles, baby pushchairs, baby carriers, hot water thermos, toys, blankets and other products for immediate support etc.), as well as translation services and information, psycho-social support, legal, financial, educational counselling, depending on the needs, to **231,853 persons**, of whom **125,660 Ukrainian children** and 106,193 adults (women, elderly, men with medical waiver, extended families).

To date, **24,321 people have been supported through the financial assistance programme**. Financial assistance was provided either through direct bank transfers (1,798 unique beneficiaries) or through the provision of social vouchers covering basic needs (15,703 unique beneficiaries), while vulnerable cases benefited from support both through bank transfers and social vouchers (6,820 unique beneficiaries).

The Mobile Kitchen set up in Vama Isaccea enabled Save the Children to provide more than **183,600** meals, about 600 meals per day, since the beginning of the war and to date.

More than **1,500 children** were aided through the programme facilitating **access to education**, including 600 children who attended the special After School Programme carried out in Ukrainian and the summer schools, organized in 14 schools/educational centres, as well as 900 children who benefited from the **Mobile School** activities. The Mobile School (partnership with Mobile School Belgium) is an educational tool dedicated to migrant children affected by a conflict or natural disasters and children from socio-economically vulnerable families.

In addition to the help provided by Save the Children in the form of immediate assistance upon arrival in Romania delivered directly at border crossing and transit points, there is an increased need to support people who wish to settle for a longer period in Romania. They particularly need information, guidance and counselling to access available rights and services, such as accessing the education system, health services, employment and also accessing emotional counselling services. To this end, Save the Children has set up **Counselling and Integrated Services Centres** in eight main areas where children and families are accommodated, having decided to stay temporarily or on a semi-permanent basis (Bucharest, Galați, Tulcea, Iași, Suceava, Baia Mare, Timișoara and Târgu-Mureș). These services have **come to the benefit of 21,263 people, including 9,919 children.**

In the Republic of Moldova we organised two humanitarian shipments with 505,200 hygiene and sanitary products for 42,000 babies, young children and mothers from Ukraine. The products were distributed in the 100 refugee centres run by the Moldovan Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. We also supported school integration for 1,600 children by organizing trainings with teachers, distributing teaching materials for extra-curricular activities in schools with a high number of refugee children enrolled and we distributed 1,200 fully equipped backpacks at the beginning of the school year to all refugee children enrolled in primary, middle and high schools across the country. Furthermore, we supported the creation of the Children's Advisory Council in collaboration with the Moldovan Children's Ombudsman, where children learn about their rights, they follow up and submit before authorities their findings and recommendations on the fulfilment of children's rights, with a focus also on the rights of refugee children.

So far, we have provided services at:

- 10 border crossing points with Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova (Isaccea, Tulcea county, Siret and Vicovu de Sus, Suceava county, Halmeu, Satu Mare county, Sighetu-Marmatiei, Maramures county, Giurgiuleşti, Galați county, Rădăuți Prut, Botoșani county, Sculeni, Iasi county, Mihăileni, Botoșani county, Albița, Vaslui county),
- 5 Accommodation and Procedures Centres for Asylum Seekers of the General Inspectorate for Immigration (Bucharest, Galați, Rădăuți, Șomcuta Mare and Timișoara),
- 3 refugee camps coordinated by IGSU: Siret (stadium), Rădăuți (stadium), Huși (Vaslui county)
- 3 travel stop points: North Railway Station - Bucharest, Romexpo - Bucharest, Egros Iasi Shopping Centre.
- 2 day centres: Bucium Social Services Centre, Iasi and Timisoara Social Services Centre, in collaboration with DGASPC Timisoara.
- 8 newly established counselling centres: Bucharest, Galați, Tulcea, Iasi, Suceava, Baia Mare, Timisoara and Targu Mures.

The interventions to support refugee children and adults in Ukraine were carried out using 6 grants awarded during implementation starting with March (NMFA, GAC, DEC, RadioAid, Dutch Campaign, Humanitarian Fund), with the support of Save the Children International.



PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AT RISK AND VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

To celebrate the International Missing Children's Day in May, educational activities were carried out in schools for children aged 7 to 14 to raise awareness of risky situations in which children and adolescents without support can make decisions with a major negative impact on their safety and lives. The activities were part of efforts to prevent this phenomenon, given the fact that in most cases of missing children, we are dealing with decisions to run away from home made voluntarily by children.

In May, as part of the partnership with the National Agency against Human Trafficking (ANITP), Save the Children specialists together with ANITP experts participated in educational activities to prevent human trafficking, held at Henri Coandă Airport in Bucharest.

Save the Children representatives participated in a series of events and working groups with the help of the Missing Children Europe network and other networks, designed to coordinate actions taken in different countries to prevent and minimize the phenomenon of missing children, sexual abuse and child trafficking, with a special focus on situations that may arise in the context of the war in Ukraine (ICare Final Conference - Judicial Cooperation and Family Mediation in International Child Abductions, ECLAG working group, coordinated by Missing Children Europe, Terre des Hommes, ECPAT International, Internet Watch Foundation and Thorn, Under the Radar Conference etc).

LEGAL ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

We provided social counselling and legal aid services to **1,290 children and parents (460 children and 830 adults)**, including:

- **38 people** received legal advice on how to obtain identity documents, welfare, special protection measures, or how to address housing problems, to conclude employment contracts, etc.

- **792 parents** benefited from social counselling services and have been informed of their families' rights and the steps to be taken to obtain them;
- **350 children** obtained various benefits/their rights were observed, after their parents received counselling.
- **110 children** who were facing abuse or neglect received legal assistance. The cases reported vary considerably, ranging from housing and bullying problems to requests for intervention in their relation with public authorities. The main difficulties children faced were related to their legal representation and to abuse.



Andreea, 9 years old,
Negru-Vodă, Constanța
county, a beneficiary of
the programme 'The health
of mothers and children in
disadvantaged rural areas'.



CHILD PARTICIPATION

The mechanism to involve children in community decision-making is supported by Save the Children. We develop projects and programmes that focus on their need to express their views on issues with a direct impact on them.

When **children's voices** are heard, adults become allies in their personal and professional development, thus building an environment that fosters the exercise and protection of their rights.

33,160 children from 265 schools actively participated in sessions informing them about their rights and responsibilities.

National Children's Forum

The 22nd edition of the National Children's Forum was the highlight of June, an event attended by 100 children from Bucharest and 13 counties.

For two days, they debated why bullying continues to be a phenomenon active in schools. The main problem is the lack of healthy relationships between children, teachers and parents, as although bullying is a problem between children, it falls under the responsibility of adults.

Their solutions were presented during meetings with representatives of the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Senate Education Committee and the Prime Minister's Chancellery.



National Children's Forum
From left to right: Paul Georgescu,
Alexandra Ionică, Lorena Olteanu.

We have rights too!

Our program "*We have rights too!*" ensures our constant presence in schools where information sessions are developed on children's rights and responsibilities, but also on the challenges they face (discrimination, violence and bullying).

With the help of **1,100 trained teachers and volunteers** we were able to inform a considerable number of **33,160 children** in our **265 partner schools** in the spirit of informal education, through both online and face-to-face lessons, with a focus on interactivity, creativity and by endorsing their opinions.

Global Campaign for Education

With the theme "Bullying-free schools", the activities carried out between 2 and 10 of June, 2022 as part of the Global Campaign for Education were focused on three objectives:

1. To inform and raise awareness among school students and other educational partners about the causes and effects of bullying.
2. To make sure that school students experience desirable forms of response to bullying situations.
3. To collect and share tools and good practices that have proven effective in preventing and tackling bullying.

Also, in order to assess the scale and the key features of the bullying phenomenon, to further support schools with new tools that help prevent and tackle bullying, an online questionnaire was developed and shared with middle and high school students.

Results: More than 600 schools enrolled to carry out activities between 2 and 10 of June 2022. According to the assessment data, the number of participants exceeded 111,000 (101,846 pupils and pre-school children, 6,398 teachers and 3,244 parents) and the suggested survey was filled in by over 4,400 respondents.

Education for Health

About **17,600 children** aged between 3 and 18 years old, from 235 educational units from rural and urban communities benefitted from information sessions on topics of interest: nutrition and exercise, prevention of substance abuse, emotional wellbeing and prevention of bullying, sexual education and environment education. **530 teachers**, 29 health professionals, 70 representatives of our partners and 358 volunteers benefitted from training and further carried out information activities for children.

Save the Children Romania organized a consultation with representatives of children on the "Climate Change and Environment Education" report, their point of view being handed in to the Presidency, together with the educational materials developed within the *Healthy Choices* project, including the environment kit.

Between 2017-2022 the *Education for Health* programme reached **115,270 pupils and students**.

Partner/Sponsor: Kaufland Romania



Salvați Copiii
Save the Children Romania

VOLUNTEERS

2,800 volunteers carried out activities for children
70,000 volunteer hours provided in 2022

The community of Save the Children volunteers is constantly expanding, with both children and adults actively involved in all Save the Children programmes to the benefit of children.

We offer valuable volunteering opportunities through which we create the space that fosters the multilateral development of volunteers and the exercise of their rights.

Leisure and educational activities with vulnerable children

Every day, the energy of our volunteers is carefully focused towards the children part of our educational programs, that they gently support in acquiring essential life skills such as literacy and arithmetic.

Every child has the right to education and volunteers play a key role in preventing vulnerable children from dropping out of school.



"One of my greatest joys is when I explain to children how to solve their homework and they solve it correctly by working on their own. It's even more overwhelming when they thank you 1,000 times, when they hug you or give you drawings they made alone as a reward for helping them. You feel their gratitude in every gesture."

Andreea Ghinescu,
Save the Children volunteer

Events and campaigns

Save the Children volunteers resonate strongly with the cause we are campaigning for, so they are keen to contribute in a variety of ways.

They expressed their views on the "Climate Change and Environment Education in Sustainable Schools" report and submitted proposals to amend the National Education Law 1/2011, and their voices were heard at the National Children's Forum and at the Safe Online Surfing conferences. They participated in Erasmus+ mobility projects built around the importance of promoting young people's right to participate.

They have contributed to fundraising campaigns to reduce infant mortality and have been involved in marathons, volunteering fairs, promoting volunteering opportunities in schools, camps, round tables and have been Santa's elves for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Interactive information sessions in schools

Volunteers across the country feel children's and students' joy every time they deliver informal education sessions in schools.

The time they spend finalising lesson plans, preparing materials and identifying the most suitable games depending on the children's ages turn into unique moments which stimulate their attention, creativity and desire for knowledge.

Children learn new and key information about their rights and responsibilities, discrimination, bullying and violence, health, environmental protection and substance abuse, nutrition and exercise, traffic rules and safe internet use.



Protection of refugee children

With the onset of the war in Ukraine, volunteers have been mobilised to help refugee children, including contributing to the creation of a playground in the passenger waiting area at the North Railway Station and in Romexpo.



ADVOCACY

Adoption by the Romanian Parliament of the amendments to Law 272/2004 on the promotion and protection of the rights of the child

Save the Children recommended that the **cases of parents working abroad** who, prior to their departure, fail to notify their intention to the public welfare services should be regulated. The proposal is currently included in Law 272/2004 in Article 104 (2^{^1}): *"The parent who exercises parental authority alone or with whom the child has resided, and who is away at work abroad, must immediately notify the public welfare service within their area of residence and designate the person responsible for the care of the child during his/her absence."* The amendments also introduced the possibility of a court to delegate parental authority ex officio, not only at the request of the parents, and to extend this delegation for periods of up to one year in cases where parents do not return to the country. The need for these changes was based on the conclusions of the analyses and studies carried out as part of the national programme implemented by Save the Children Romania, in partnership with the National Authority for the Protection of Children's Rights and Adoption at national level and with the General Directorates for Welfare and Child Protection at county level.

Banning convicted persons from participating in elections to public office

The draft law **"No more child predators on the ballot paper"**, adopted by the Romanian Parliament, whereby persons convicted of crimes committed with intent, including against children, can no longer run for public office, was drafted at the initiative of the Save the Children Organization, based on the organization's report submitted in May 2021 to the Presidency, the Government and the two chambers of the Romanian Parliament. Save the Children has called for better protection of children against physical and sexual abuse and sexual assault and for tougher penalties for a range of offences against the sexual freedom and integrity involving minors. During the debates conducted on these proposals, their content was amended and extended to include all categories of offenders.

Analysis of the draft law on pre-academic education

Save the Children analysed the **draft law on pre-academic education prepared by the Ministry of Education** and submitted a report with actual proposals for amendments, warning on: the need to define and incorporate the principle of the best interests of the pupil; the need to eliminate the minimum spending threshold for education in the Education Act, which is not applicable from a constitutional perspective, and to reintroduce the obligation to allocate at least 6% of GDP; the need to award and set the amount of school grants in line with the principle of equity, by observing the obligation to increase them at least based on inflation as well as the amount and number of grants awarded by local councils' decision, and the need to introduce legal sanctions in the form of fines for mayors who refuse to initiate a draft local council decision to approve grants for pupils; the need to operationalize methodological anti-bullying rules in all educational units by setting up the relevant action groups;

the need to maintain the network of resource and psycho-pedagogical assistance centres in their current setup and to strengthen the role of the school counsellor and extend their autonomy; to eliminate the possibility for national colleges to organise their own high school entrance examinations; to extend student representation in the decision-making processes of school units; to explicitly designate non-governmental organisations as partners in the implementation of remedial and "School after school" programmes.

Advocacy for Ukrainian children and parents affected by the war in Ukraine

In the context of the humanitarian crisis triggered by the war in Ukraine, Save the Children Romania plays an active role in the working groups coordinated by UNHCR, within the Response Plan for Ukrainian refugees in Romania. Save the Children is co-leader of the Cash Working Group, together with UNHCR and the Red Cross, and is represented in the Cross-sectoral Working Group, the Protection Working Group, Child Protection Working Sub-Group, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Working Sub-Group, Education Working Sub-Group, Information Management Working Group, PSEA (Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse) Working Group.



First Lady of the United States of America, Dr. Jill Biden, with Save the Children Executive President Gabriela Alexandrescu.



RESEARCH

Acceptance of Roma by the majority population. The survey was aimed at assessing the initial level (prior to the implementation of awareness-raising campaigns) of Roma acceptance by the majority population of Bahna (Neamt), Breasta (Dolj), Checea (Timis) and Ciprian Porumbescu (Suceava).

Internet use by children and adolescents. A third (29%) of children say they have received images or videos with content depicting nudity or sexual posing on the Internet and 20% of children say they have been asked for photos or videos depicting them naked or in a sexual pose. According to the same study, in 2021, 37% of students say they have been offended or bothered online, and 49% of them say they have found content online that made them feel uncomfortable. Physical and verbal violence along with nudity are the main content that made them feel uncomfortable.

Children's views on climate change education. The majority of children (87%) think that developing climate and environmental skills in school-based education programmes is necessary, but 44% of children and young people think that that environmental and climate change education programmes should take place both in and outside of the classroom, and 35% believe that learning should take place mainly outside the classroom.

School after the pandemic. How do children feel at school? 1,821 lower and upper secondary school students participated in the survey. Only a third of 8th graders say they feel prepared for the upcoming national exams, 31% of lower and upper secondary school children say they have fallen behind in school, while almost 60% of students go to extra classes for at least one subject.

The situation and needs of mothers and children arriving in Romania because of the war in Ukraine. The consultation procedure (attended by 344 mothers from Ukraine who are in Romania with their children) revealed that 73% of Ukrainian children in Romania continued their education remotely, based on the online Ukrainian curriculum, 7% of them discontinued their education completely, while 6% attended Romanian schools, where special classes were organized with Ukrainian curriculum and teachers from their country of origin, with only 1% enrolled as participating in classes, without being registered in the Romanian educational system.

Students' experiences with regard to bullying. The online consultation, in which 4,449 secondary and high school/vocational students expressed their opinions, drew attention to worrying issues such as: almost half (49%) of respondents were victims of bullying, while more than 4 in 5 students (81%) have witnessed bullying at school and only 9.5% declaring they have never witnessed bullying in their school (the difference up to 100% consists in non-responses).

Review on the status of mothers and pregnant women under 18 in Romania. More than eight out of 10 mothers and pregnant women under the age of 18 are out of school, and four out of 10 pregnant and underage mothers have no access to other health services, except family doctors, during pregnancy. At the same time, two out of 10 underage mothers have more than one child and 32% say their mother was underage when she gave birth to them.

Review on the status of pregnant women in disadvantaged communities. This review revealed that 25% of vulnerable pregnant women do not have health insurance, 33% of them say they did not undergo the recommended tests since they became pregnant, with lack of money being the main hindrance mentioned, and only 4 out of 10 pregnant women say that all tests were free.

The impact of the economic crisis on families. The analysis, based on a questionnaire completed in 790 households, involving 3,570 people, including 1,942 children, revealed that the overwhelming majority (95%) of vulnerable families are unable to meet their basic necessities such as medicines or medical consultations for a child's health problem, food or other necessities for children, utility bills for the home (electricity, gas, telephone, internet) or expenses strictly related to the children's education (transport of children between home and school, school supplies, textbooks).

DONATIONS FOR CHILDREN

Direct Debit - Save the Children had the most active Direct Debit team in 2022, with 35,725 active donors registered this year. Direct Debit donations are a form of recurring and regular donation, whereby the donor commits to pay a fixed amount each month by having their bank account automatically charged. The significant amount collected thanks to donors who responded positively to the Save the Children fundraising events in Bucharest, Cluj Napoca, Timisoara and Iasi, were used to equip maternity hospitals with state-of-the-art medical equipment.



Photo: Iasi Direct Debit Team

3.5% of income tax - Every year Save the Children runs a fundraising campaign targeting individuals to convince them to redirect 3.5% of their income tax. All individuals earning income in the previous year from salaries, pensions, self-employment, intellectual property rights or the transfer of the use of goods can contribute through this campaign by filling in the form 230 available at www.salvaticopiii.ro/redirectioneaza.

Online - Regular support, through online donations, of Save the Children projects is very important, as these donations contribute to the sustainability of the organization's projects. Whether it is education, health or protection, Save the Children is always working on actions with an impact on the community, paying special attention to children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

SMS - SMS 8844 with the text SAVE - A simple way to support, on a monthly basis, the Save the Children programme for equipping maternity clinics with medical equipment, is via the SMS donation mechanism. It is the simplest way to support a charitable cause, by sending a text message worth €2/month to 8844 with the text SALVEZ. In 2022 we registered 17,047 such recurring active donors.

20% of corporate income tax - the mechanism available every year to enterprises and small companies to support the cause of children born prematurely under a sponsorship contract, as provided for by law.

The Save the Children team of 550 runners participating in the Bucharest Half Marathon successfully raised the necessary funds for the acquisition of state-of-the-art equipment for the Clinical Department of Plastic Surgery, Reconstructive Microsurgery and Burns of the "Grigore Alexandrescu" Children's Emergency Hospital.



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

The 22nd edition of the Christmas Tree Festival benefited from a prestigious partnership: **Romania's National Museum of Art**, which showcased the one-of-a-kind trees to be auctioned on the evening of the Gala on 9 December in a record-breaking race of generosity. Thus, the event raised €820,000 worth of funds, a proof of the fact that social solidarity is one of the most effective solutions in the face of a crisis.

The artists who created this edition's unique trees are:

Doina Levintza • Ștefan Câlția & Mihaela Glăvan • Miruna Bălașa & Endorphin Lab • Arina Bican & Kulterra Gallery • Nicu Bocancea & Iris Florist • Irina Dragomir • Gheorghe Fikl & ArtMoves • Lemon Interior Design & Summer Well • Omid Ghannadi & Victor Firan • Simona & Gabriel Gherasim • Gallantique Boutique • Laura Hîncu • Ana Mohonea & Maria Mohonea • Architectural Christmas • Dhaniel Nora & SEPHORA • Adela Pârvu, with the support of DYPETY.RO & Eglo Romania • Mihai Popescu & Twins Studio • Studium on Space, with the support of Lisa & Co and Edenholz Residence • Iulia Totoianu & Libris.ro • Răzvan Luca & UNTOLD • Măriuca Istrătescu and students of George Coșbuc National College & Dhaniel Nora. They were joined by Save the Children, with the support of Ștefania Mircea.

During the Christmas Tree Festival Gala, the trees designed and donated by famous Romanian designers and artists were auctioned for amounts between 7,000 and 100,000 €, offered by companies which have taken on the role of major players of



Marius Panu with children from the educational programmes that are being supported through the Christmas Tree Festival.

Festivalul Brazilor de Grăciun 2022

LUMINEAZĂ DRUMUL EDUCAȚIEI
EDIȚIA A XXII-A



Călin Stegorean, General Manager of Romania's National Museum of Art and Marius Panca at the Christmas Tree Festival Gala.

social responsibility. The total amount raised was of €820,000 from auctioning trees, the sale of raffle tickets and sponsorships. The host of the evening was Marius Panca, who turned the evening into a show of good.

The most coveted tree was the one created by Răzvan Luca & UNTOLD "Brad Crăciun UNTOLD. Magia vieții reale/UNTOLD Christmas Tree. Real-life Magic", auctioned for the amount of 100,000 offered by Kaufland Romania.

2022 Edition PARTNERS:

Diamond Sponsors: Catena, Deutek, Kultho Forever Diamonds

Platinum Sponsors: BCR, Kaufland Romania, MOL Romania, Renovatio, Smart Soft Power.

Gold sponsors: Banca Transilvania, Beautik Haute Parfumerie, Clifford Chance Badea, Garanti Bank, Mastercard, NHood Romania, One United Properties, SKY XS Aircargo, Viatrix, Wienerberger.

Silver sponsors: Alumil, Austria Card, CIT ONE, Dexion Romania, Inform Lykos, Macromex, Maresi Foodbroker, Maviprod, Oscar Downstream, PEPCO Romania, ASSA ABLOY.

Special thanks: ATRA DOFTANA, BDG, Beautik Haute Parfumerie, Beauty District, Shakti Centre, COUNTRY SPA RETREAT, DAVINO, Delicateria Italiana, DENT ESTET, Depozitarul Central, DOUGLAS, Elena Perseil, Gallantique Boutique, GETT'S, Hadar Chalet, Haita Land, Hype Arena, Hotel Epoque, Hotel IAKI, HUMANITAS, IVATHERM, KIDDO Play Academy, Kiehl's, Lensa, Marionnaud, Niran, Obsentum, Optimize Body Center, Parsa Beauty, Purple Flowers, SEPHORA Romania, Summer Well, TOP LINE, UNTOLD, Wild Olive, YUMP.



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Save the Children Romania

SPONSORS AT THE CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2022

DIAMOND SPONSORS



PLATINUM SPONSORS



GOLD SPONSORS



SILVER SPONSORS



IMPACT, COLLABORATIONS, AWARDS

Impact online

In the year 2022, the www.salvaticopiii.ro was accessed **1,058,218 times** and **by 520,210 unique visitors**.

Save the Children Facebook page (facebook.com/SalvatiCopiiiRomania) continued to rank first in the Facebook page rankings in the Nonprofit category, with a reach of **6,105,040 people** and **an engagement of 864,533 people**.

Instagram account (Instagram.com/SalvatiCopiiiRomania), with **18,009 followers**, holds the first position in the top accounts of NGOs for children.

In 2022, Save the Children had **9,479 appearances online, 543 on TV, 248 on radio and 201 in the mainstream media**. In 2022, Save the Children Romania recorded a total of **10,471 appearances**.

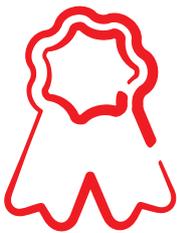
Partners of the General Secretariat

Ministry of Education, National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of the Child and Adoption, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Presidential Administration, Emergency Situations Department, Ministry of Communications and Information Society, National Authority for Administration and Regulation in Communications, UNICEF, UNHCR, People's Advocate, Bondoc & Associates, Romanian Society of Paediatrics, Bucharest School Inspectorate, County School Inspectorates, General Directorates of Welfare and Child Protection, Public Welfare Services, General Schools, High Schools, General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police, County Police Inspectorates, Romanian Border Police, National Company Bucharest Airports, National Institute for Mother and Child Health "Alessandrescu-Rusescu" Bucharest, Psychiatric Hospital "Al. Obregia" - Psychiatric Clinic for Children and Adolescents, Bucharest Municipal Centre for Educational Resources and Assistance, County Centres for Educational Resources and Assistance, Teachers associations, National Agency against Trafficking in Human Beings, General Inspectorate for Immigration, JRS Romania Association, Caravan with Doctors, Terre des Hommes, DIGI Romania, National Council of Students, World Vision Romania, SOS Children's Villages, School of Values Association, Training Association - Casa Experimentelor, ELSA Association - an association within the Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest, Association of Students in Psychology and Educational Sciences, Sociology and Social Work Students Association.



The programme for children home alone, Lupeni, Hunedoara

Awards



Save the Children's intervention in support of refugee children in Ukraine has received **the European Parliament's European Citizen Award 2022**.

At the same time, Save the Children received the *Honorary Recognition for Organizational and Humanitarian Civic Courage* from the **Royal House of Romania** and the *Diploma of Excellence* from the **Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities** at the National Gala of Good, in the category "*Child and Family Rights*".

Save the Children also received the *Award of Excellence* for supporting the profession of social worker from the **National College of Social Workers**, in the 8th edition of the National Gala of Excellence in Social Work.

The project *Education and protection for vulnerable children (children with parents working abroad and children from socio-economically vulnerable families)* received the **3rd Prize** in the "Education" category at the **Romanian CSR Awards 2022**, for the Save the Children - PEPCO Romania collaboration, while the *National programme for supporting children's health* received the **3rd Prize** in the "Health" category at the **Civil Society Gala**.

In 2022, the Executive President of the Save the Children Organization received the Award for Influence in Support of Children's Rights at the **Forbes Woman Gala** and the *Diploma for Outstanding Merit in Cardiovascular Medicine on the occasion of the Days of the Emergency Institute for Cardiovascular Diseases and Transplantation Tg. Mures*, for the firm and decisive contribution to the Institute's activity and for unconditional involvement.

2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

THE SAVE THE CHILDREN ACTIVITY
TAKES PLACE AT THE GENERAL
SECRETARIAT AND IN THE BRANCHES

TOTAL REVENUE
€ 21,188,058

GENERAL SECRETARIAT
€ 19.898.068
(94%)

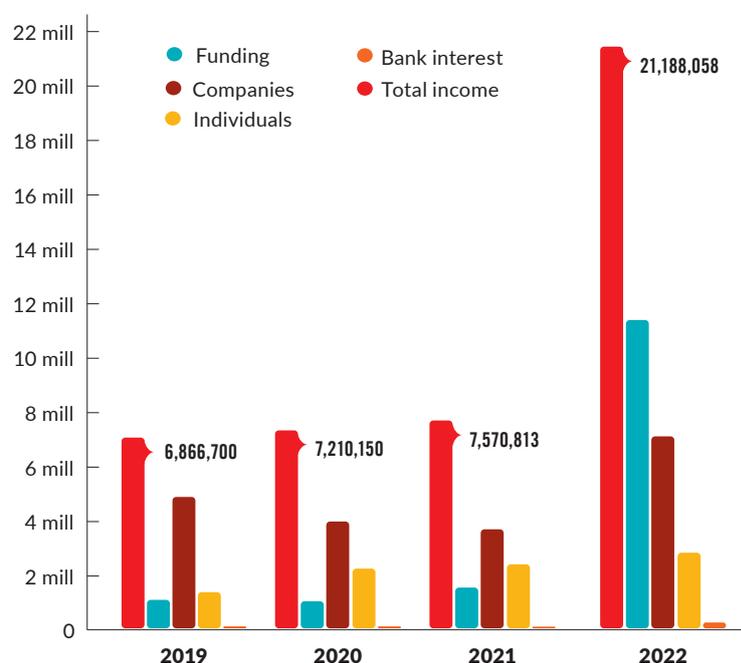
SUBSIDIARY
€ 1.289.990
(6%)

REVENUE 2019-2022 (€)

The financial statements of the Save the Children Organisation as of 31.12.2022 are audited by the Board of Auditors appointed by the organisation's General Assembly and are externally audited by KPMG.

TOTAL REVENUE - EUR	21,188,058	%
contributions, donations, sponsorships	9,842,229	46%
Save the Children International - Ukraine response	6,490,096	31%
European funds	3,609,751	17%
Save the Children Denmark - Ukraine response	933,524	4%
public institutions	187,752	1%
Bank interest and other income	124,706	1%

EXPENDITURE - EUR	17.227.782	
A. PROGRAMME:	16.413.172	95%
1. Protection of refugee children - Ukraine response	7,126,370	
2. Promoting and ensuring children's right to education	3,606,947	
• Access to education for children from disadvantaged backgrounds	3,486,947	
• Pre-school education for disadvantaged children	120,000	
3. Child health and nutrition	2,951,449	
4. Ensuring children's right to protection	2,409,108	
• Protection of children home alone	1,781,713	
• Protection of children against violence and economic exploitation	309,178	
• Online child protection - Safer Internet Programme	291,955	
• Protecting children against HIV/AIDS	26,262	
5. Promoting and observing the right to education	319,298	
B. Fundraising and communication	367,538	2%
C. Management and organisation	420,555	2%
D. Contributions to international programmes	26,517	1%





PARTNERSHIPS FOR CHILDREN

We thank all our partners who support Save the Children causes and understand the importance of rallying people and joining efforts so that children in Romania can have a better future. We trust and continue to rely on your support! There is still a lot to do for children.



MSD - Supports the largest public health intervention dedicated to increasing access to integrated services (medical, social, educational) for pregnant teenagers, teenage mothers and children under 5 years of age, from disadvantaged rural areas in Romania and the Republic of Moldova. It also supports access to integrated socio-medical assistance services for Ukrainian refugees in Romania and the Republic of Moldova.



Kaufland România - 17,600 children from 22 counties benefited from information sessions on health education and educational activities, while 3,970 pre-schoolers, 5,626 school children, teachers and parents benefited from educational resources and specific activities to prevent bullying. At the same time, since the beginning of the partnership, more than 3,550 socio-economically vulnerable children whose parents are working abroad have been supported.



Endava - Supports child protection activities in the online environment and also Save the Children's response in support of Ukrainian refugee children and their families.



MOL România - An important partner in the programme to support children's health in Romania, which helped at equipping the paediatric wards of 6 hospitals with state-of-the-art medical equipment. It also supports Save the Children's activities dedicated to refugee children from Ukraine and their families.



KIMBERLY-CLARK - Alongside Ogilvy Romania, they sustain the information and support campaign for 100,000 mothers in 100 maternity hospitals across the country on new-born care. At the same time, 20,000 mothers in 10 maternity wards received information on new-born health through video communication systems installed in the wards.



PEPCO România - Important partner of the programmes for the protection of children with parents working in other countries and for the prevention of school dropout among disadvantaged children since 2019, the company has contributed to the improvement of protection, emotional well-being and prevention of school dropout for these children. In 2022 alone, more than 1,600 children and their parents and caregivers in 5 counties were supported with the help of PEPCO Romania.



OMV Petrom Foundation - In 2022, it joined the programme to reduce infant mortality, supporting Save the Children to equip 45 grade 1 and 2 neonatal wards in 28 counties of the country.



LIDL - Has been a partner for education since 2012. More than 4,500 children from disadvantaged communities have benefited from direct school integration and dropout prevention services, social, psychological and legal counselling, and material support. More than 5,200 children and young people have benefited from quality educational services as a result of improved working methods of teachers.



Banca Comercială Română - It is one of the oldest and most constant partners, supporting both children's education, by sponsoring the Christmas Tree Festival, the prevention of violence against children, ensuring the right to life for children born prematurely and other initiatives of the organization. Every year, more than 1,000 children from vulnerable groups are supported to access education. In addition, in 2022, it sustained Save the Children intervention to support Ukrainian refugee children and their families.



Catena - One of the most important and constant supporters of educational programs, it supports the Christmas Tree Festival and other programmes with sponsorships, it helps annually more than 1,200 children and their families through integrated educational services, social, psychological and material support.



ALLIANCE HEALTHCARE ROMÂNIA - Contributes to improving maternal and child health in 16 disadvantaged rural communities through locally integrated socio-medical services for mothers, pregnant women and children up to 5 years old.



Lego România & Lego Foundation - Supports Save the Children's efforts to create minimum conditions of normalcy for refugee children from Ukraine, to restore their right to play and learn, as part of the humanitarian intervention dedicated to them and their families.



The Vodafone Romania Foundation - Partner in the project to reduce infant mortality by financially supporting the acquisition of medical devices necessary to ensure special conditions for the survival of children born prematurely in the county of Botoșani.



Terona - Partner for education, supports children from vulnerable groups in district 1 and 5 of Bucharest in order to prevent school dropout. With Terona's help, they are provided with school supplies, educational materials and other items needed to attend school and participate in social skills development activities.

PENNY Market România - With the help of PENNY Romania and the Caravan with Doctors Association, in 2022, 3 medical caravans were organized in Negru Voda (Constanța county), Mironeasa (Iași county) and Tarlungeni (Brasov county), during which mothers, pregnant women and pregnant minors received free tests, ultrasounds and consultations and a care kit for mother/pregnant and newborn.

Banca Transilvania - Continued to support access to education for children from vulnerable communities by providing school supplies and social and educational services. It also supported the creation of playgrounds for children in partner secondary schools.

Essilor - Supports the project to identify students with vision problems and refer them to specialists, i.e. financial support for the purchase of glasses needed for children from socio-economically vulnerable families.

FOX - It is one of the companies that constantly sustains the program for supporting children's health, after getting involved in 2018, by providing healthcare facilities with state-of-the-art medical equipment needed for children born prematurely or for children with complex pathologies.

NEPI RockCastle - Supports the online child protection program through online and offline events for children and parents, where we present recommendations for children's online conduct.

Libris - Supports the child mortality reduction programme since 2014. Since then, Save the Children has benefited from donations from over 500,000 Libris.ro customers, who have contributed to the acquisition of state-of-the-art medical equipment and devices.

OMV Petrom - Supported the training of teachers in 14 secondary schools in Giurgiu and Teleorman counties to improve the school climate and collaborative relationships between school representatives, children and families in the community. Educational resources and digital opportunities were provided, with a focus on children's emotional wellbeing.

DENT ESTET - The collaboration with DENT ESTET has resulted in dental prophylaxis services and free consultations at the clinics in Bucharest and Timisoara. Over 1,670 children from vulnerable groups were helped in this way in recent years.

KPMG - Generously and professionally audits the organisation since 2010.

With responsible partners at our side, we believe in the future!

SPONSORS - GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Sponsors which offered amounts over €100,000

Alliance Healthcare • BCR • Catena • Charitable Giving • Endava Romania • Essilor • Botnar Foundation • OMV Petrom Foundation • Vodafone Romania Foundation • Kaufland Romania • Kimberly Clark • Ogilvy • Lego Systems • MSD • PEPCO Romania

Sponsors which offered amounts between €100.000 and €50,000

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European Commission - Safer Internet • Eun Partnership Bicnet • Romanian Social Development Fund • EEA and Norwegian Grants 2014-2021 • PACT Foundation • EEA and Norwegian Grants 2014- 2021 • Civil Society Development Foundation • Google Benevity • Inhope Association • Ministry of National Education through the Human Capital Operational Programme 2014-2020 (POCU) • Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Subsidies Law 34/1998 • MSD for Mothers • Naukowa Akademika • Media Literacy Poland • City Hall District 2 Bucharest • Save the Children Italy ONLUS • Save the Children International • Save the Children Denmark • Senate of Romania • Sulle Orme Yoac Project

Thank you to **all the sponsors** who have chosen to support Save the Children programmes in 2022!



BRANCH INVOLVEMENT



Argeș

Educational support, remedial and informal education projects for children at risk continued. In the context of the war in Ukraine, a shipment of food products was sent to Ukraine with the help of partners.

Caraș-Severin

3,681 children and young people from 31 urban and rural schools received information on how to adopt a healthy lifestyle. 80 children from disadvantaged backgrounds and 52 children with parents working abroad received educational, psychological and social support, and 108 children aged 0-5, 80 mothers and pregnant women from Anina and Reșița benefited from integrated socio-medical services.



Constanța

2,500 pupils from 23 schools in 12 communities in Constanta County benefited from information sessions on children's rights and responsibilities, and 50 children from disadvantaged backgrounds were supported at the *Mangalia Educational Centre through School After School and Summer Kindergarten activities*.

Dolj

More than 2,000 pupils in 20 schools were informed about children's rights through the work of 25 volunteers. 72 children from Craiova whose parents are working abroad received educational support and psycho-social, as well as material support to participate in recreational and social activities, while their caregivers benefited from parenting education and social counselling services.



Hunedoara

170 children benefited from support in doing homework and learning lessons, a daily hot meal and educational-leisure and informal activities in the *Petrila Day Centre for children from families in difficulty*. The branch organized a summer camp, a camp at the mountain side in Parâng resort, trips, Snow carnival, opportunities to play and develop social skills.

Iași

144 vulnerable families from Ciurea locality participated in parenting education programmes and their pre-school children benefited from an innovative early childhood education programme, both programmes proving to be a solution for preventing early school dropout in disadvantaged rural communities. Three community clubs have been set up in Șcheia, Mironeasa and Ceplenita localities to develop the skills of 130 teenage mothers, young mothers and future mothers from rural areas facing poverty and social exclusion.





Mureş

500 children received ophthalmological screening, consultation and corrective glasses for those with eye problems, with the aim of monitoring the improvement of eyesight and therefore school outcomes. 135 children and 139 adult refugees from Ukraine received support and counselling at the newly established dedicated *Information and Counselling Centre*. *The Children's Festival* celebrated, for three consecutive days, 30 years of sustained activity of Save the Children in Mures County.

Neamţ

More than 400 children, 250 parents and legal representatives, as well as specialists from several localities in Neamt county were included in the branch's programmes in 2022. Among them, 144 pregnant women, mothers and children 0-5 years of age from Bahna and Săbăoani localities received counselling and information on the importance of prenatal check-ups, child rearing and care, breastfeeding and nutrition, support to access health services, material support, if needed.



Suceava



14,213 children and 17,423 adult refugees from Ukraine received basic necessities, medicines, social vouchers, toys, practical and legal information. Save the Children set up child-friendly spaces and carried out leisure activities for children. 679 children and 725 adults benefited from social vouchers, financial support, hygiene products, educational-leisure activities and counselling within the newly established *Information and Counselling Centre*.

Timiş

Ongoing projects were complemented by the set up of an *Information and Counselling Centre* dedicated to Ukrainian refugee children and their families. More than 5,000 children - Romanians and Ukrainians - benefited in 2022 from psychological counselling, educational and information activities, theme-oriented webinars, comprehensive social services and material support.



Vaslui



381 mothers, pregnant women and children 0 to 5 years old from Dragomireşti and Oşeşti localities were supported under the national mother and child health programme. At the same time, the branch organized activities to promote children's rights and to prevent bullying, educational activities and psycho-social support for children at risk.



SUPPORTERS OF SAVE THE CHILDREN BRANCHES

Argeș

Sponsors: Bamesa Oțel Topoloveni

Partners: Argeș County School Inspectorate, Argeș County Council, Argeș General Directorate of Welfare and Child Protection, Welfare Directorate of the Municipality of Pitesti, Argeș Public Health Directorate, Argeș County Directorate of Sport and Youth, Argeș County Police Inspectorate, Argeș Gendarmes Inspectorate, Municipality of Pitesti City Hall, Association "Word of Life" Micești.

Caraș-Severin

Partners: Caraș-Severin County School Inspectorate, Caraș-Severin School House, Caraș-Severin County Centre for Educational Resources and Assistance, Caraș-Severin Centre for Evaluation, Prevention and Anti-Drug Counselling, Caraș-Severin County Police Inspectorate, Caraș-Severin Public Health Department, Municipality of Caraș-Severin, Caraș-Severin City Hall. Reșița, Simbio Association - Caraș-Severin branch, educational units.

Media partners: Jurnal de Caraș-Severin, Reper 24, Radio Reșița, Banat TV.

Constanța

Partners: educational units, Albești Town Hall, Negru Voda Town Hall.

Dolj

Partners: Dolj County School Inspectorate, Dolj Public Health Department, Dolj General Department of Welfare and Child Protection, Dolj County Centre for Educational Resources and Assistance, Craiova Municipal Police, educational units.

Hunedoara

Partners: Police Inspectorate of Hunedoara county, D.G.S.A.P.C. Hunedoara, ITM Deva, Petrila Social Welfare Department, Petrila Town Police, Constantin Brâncuși Petrila Technical College and structures, I. D. Sîrbu Petrila and facilities, Mihai Eminescu National College Petroșani, Carmen Sylva National College of Informatics Petroșani, Dragomir Hurmuzescu Deva Technical College, University of Petroșani.

Sponsors: Petrila City Hall, Zona D Petroșani, Iulian Transfor Petrila, Maria Antonia Services Petroșani, Petrosani Insemex Trade Union.

Iași

Main partners: Cristian ABC, Coseli, Borgwarner, Sweet Blanca, Ardealul Pharmacy, Help Flux, Adriana Pharmacy, Fortis, Misavan Trading, Adaconi, Sevenode, Quatro Group Distribution, Panifcom, Patisgal, Misavan, Allmetech, Doterra Healing Hands, Moldova Center, Adaconi, Bmw Apan Motors Iași, Prima Car, Fabrica De Print, Eset Romania.

Media partners: Europa Fm, Iasi Tv Life, Radio Hit, Tvr Iasi, Iașul Nostru.

Mureș

Partners: Mureș County Council, City Hall Tg. Mureș, D.G.A.S.P.C. Mureș, D.A.S. Tg. Mureș, ISJ Mureș, Regional Centre - National Agency against Human Trafficking Tg. Mureș, IPJ Mureș, Mureș County Library, Association of Samaritans Romania, educational units.

Sponsors: DARINA network of stores, Gedeon Richter Romania, Medcris, BioAqua Group Tg. Mureș, Salute Vestra Cluj, Teconnex Cluj, PROFI, SELGROS, Pleuro Ind Tg. Mureș, Pharmics.

Neamț

Partners: General Directorate of Welfare and Child Protection Neamț, Roman City Hall, Târgu Neamț City Hall, Neamț Public Health Department, educational units in Piatra Neamț, Roman, Târgu Neamț, Neamț County school inspectorate.

Sponsors: Roman Town Hall - Tax Service, Târgu Neamț Town Hall - Tax Service, Piatra Neamț County Emergency Hospital, Roman Municipal Hospital, Târgu Neamț City Hospital, Genezza Supermarket Târgu Neamț.

Timiș

Partners: Timiș General Directorate of Welfare and Child Protection, Timiș County Police Inspectorate, Territorial Inspectorate of Border Police Timișoara, Emergency Clinical Hospital for Children "Louis Turcanu", Timișoara, Nursery Moșnița Nouă, Foundation for Empowerment "Speranța" Timișoara, EMDR Romania, educational units, LOGS - Social initiative group, League of Chemistry Students Timișoara, Checea City Hall, Timiș county, Jimbolia Town Hall, Timiș county. Timiș, family and paediatrics practices.

Sponsors: Aptiv Technology Services Solution, Apothecaria, City Of Mara Trei, Chiesi Romania, Tabula Terra, Romanian Society of EMDR, Centrul de Diagnostic Medical, Diasol, Dr. Golea Medical Diagnostic Center, Tim Teros, Flexik Automation, Rcw Romania, Fert-Trade ro, Mvt Services, Agro Spes, Codrina, Maresi Foodbroker, Unilever South Central Europe, Incremental, Mondial, Dm Drogherie, Rudolf Walther Foundation - Timisoara Branch, Medlife, British School Timișoara, Ravitex, Spyrosoft.

Vaslui

Partners: Vaslui County School Inspectorate, Vaslui County Police Inspectorate, Vaslui County Centre for Educational Resources and Assistance, school units, town halls, local councils, Vaslui County Council, D.G.A.S.P.C. Vaslui, family practices, Vaslui County Hospital.

Media partners: Monitorul de Vaslui, Vremea nouă, Obiectiv de Vaslui, Smile FM Vaslui, Antena satelor Bucharest.

Sponsors: Horvica Negrești, Balsam Pharmacy Negrești, Căciulă Mădălin Claudiu, Dem-Dyo-Lux Negrești.



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The photos included in the report were taken by: Eduard Oti, Valentin Cărbunaru (JoArtStudio), Claudiu Popescu, Luiza Marinaș, Irina Popescu, Mihaela Oprișan, Dan Verescu.

For 33 years, Save the Children Romania has been creating social programmes, public policies and solid practices to the benefit of the child in Romania. Due to the expertise and complexity of its nationwide projects, the organisation is a key social institution, the role of which is to mediate between the society and the public authority, to the benefit of the child. In more than three decades of activity, Save the Children has actively participated in the society, identifying concrete solutions for protecting and supporting vulnerable children, while also advocating for viable collaboration with the decision-making authorities, to ensure the best interest of the child.

Save the Children took on the role of a vigilant supervisor of the public authorities, so that they implement long-lasting public policies that correct the causes which make the children vulnerable. Moreover, the organisation managed to create active networks of solidarity, by encouraging the social responsibility of companies and of society, at large.

As a member of Save the Children Association, the world's largest independent organisation that promotes children's rights, includes 30 members and conducts programmes in 118 countries, our VISION is a world that respects each and every child's right to survival, education, protection and participation, undertaking the MISSION of achieving significant progress on how children are treated and producing immediate and lasting change in their life. In 33 years of activity, more than 3,369,000 children were involved in the programmes and campaigns of Save the Children Romania.