



SERVICIUL IEZUITILOR PENTRU REFUGIATI
ROMANIA

2022

ANNUAL REPORT





Many people said that it was better to stay in their native country, that they would not help us in Europe and that we would always be strangers. But what was my surprise, how they accepted me in Romania. This country has become my second home. The Romanians accepted me into their society and provided me with moral and financial support.



JRS provided me with housing and other assistance for a long time. JRS is like a parent to me who supports and teaches their immature and scared child. JRS took care of all my basic and spiritual needs, giving me time to take a breath and deal with stress. I lost my long-term fear that I might be left on the street with a child.

Iryna Arapova, from Ukraine

The Migrant Forum resonated a lot with my desire to affirm and support the community of which I am a part. Very often we women from the Middle East are stigmatized and portrayed in a permanent posture of victims, so the idea of the Forum sparked for me and the possibility of a platform for deconstructing prejudices and preconceived ideas related to migrants. JRS Romania offered me more than a platform, it was a vital support for me, along with the foundation of the Forum. With the support of JRS, we facilitated discussions between communities of foreigners and representatives of the Romanian government, addressing issues such as: discrimination, the need for adequate medical facilities for foreign citizens, the accessibility of Romanian language courses and legal information regarding residence and other rights in Romania. During all these meetings with government representative s or of other agencies and organizations, I felt that my concerns and those of the migrant community that I represent are heard and that there is the possibility of managing certain problems and needs.

Farah Al-eryani, from Yemen



JRS Romania was a real blessing for me. JRS gave me shelter, not just through the actual support of putting a roof over my head and paying my rent, but mostly through the protection he gave me and including me in the JRS family. It was the first place in Romania in that I felt protected, understood. I was amazed at the hustle and bustle in the entrance hall, a truckload of donations had just arrived and everyone was helping to unload it: the director organization, Ukrainian volunteers, a family from Syria staying in the JRS center. I felt that I had arrived in a big family where people from all corners of the world gathered together to help the most needy I also helped unload diapers, canned goods and electric generators that were to be sen tin Ukraine and distributed in the areas most affected by the war.

Oruma Hussein Danmusa, from Nigeria

OUR VISION

Together for a Sustainable Future

WHAT WE FIGHT FOR

01

Education

To ignite the potential of all children and adults by driving change and development through knowledge, creativity, and critical thinking. To inspire and enable continuous educational solutions that catalyze personal empowerment, inclusivity, and lifelong success.

02

Displaced Persons

To journey alongside communities, fostering empowerment, and advocating for a just and equitable future for all.

To bring healing, learning and to protect people in vulnerable situations.

03

Climate Change

To lead the resilience and revitalization of our planet, engaging with individuals and communities in transformative actions that address climate change, preserve ecosystems, and construct a just and sustainable world for current and future generations.



OUR VALUES

1

Compassion

Compassion means treating others with equity and respect, and working to alleviate the suffering of others, starting from a base of love, empathy and understanding.

2

Hope

Hope is the quality of the spirit that provides the necessary energy and direction to keep working towards our aims for an inclusive and welcoming society. Guided by hope, JRS focuses on positivity and solutions rather than problems. Through accompaniment, JRS can inspire hope among people in difficult situations, thereby contributing to societal change.

3

Dignity

Dignity means that all human beings, regardless of their social status, circumstances or identity, are endowed with human rights, agency and a unique personal history. These human rights are inherent and inalienable and must therefore always be respected and protected.

4

Solidarity

Solidarity is represented by our firm and preserving commitment to do good in society for individuals. It is present when JRS respectfully walks alongside and works with people – refugees and migrants from diverse cultures, nationalities and religions.

5

Hospitality

Hospitality is at the heart of creating a welcoming and inclusive environment where everyone can be 'at home'. For JRS, hospitality begins upon a person's first arrival, and we create spaces where people interact, make connections and develop positive networks of relationships.

6

Justice

Justice is achieved when people – regardless of race, religion, gender, age or ability – enjoy equal opportunities and conditions that ensure access to a dignified way of life. JRS engages in a root cause analysis of injustices that refugees and migrants face in order to seek positive societal and cultural change.

7

Participation

Participation is a way of working that intentionally involves refugees and migrants in decision-making, planning and evaluation as well as in efforts to raise awareness and advocate on their own behalf. Participation is rooted in relationships based on trust, mutuality and reciprocity. More broadly, participation strives to empower refugees to contribute actively and confidently to society.



PEOPLE WE SERVED

39,616



PROGRAMS



HOW WE SEE IT

LIVELIHOODS

A household's livelihood is sustainable or secure when it can cope with and recover from shocks, and maintain or enhance its capabilities and productive assets.

For JRS, helping forcibly displaced persons to establish a secure livelihood incorporates many activities geared towards self-reliance, such as ensuring access to employment; offering technical training and assistance; and other resources. However working on livelihoods is not just about economic self-sufficiency; it is also about restoring dignity, confidence and hope, as well as promoting integration.

EDUCATION IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

For vulnerable forcibly displaced children, schools are safe havens. Educators look out for the welfare of these children, while classrooms are able to provide a protective environment for them. Schools are places that give a sense of normalcy and hope to a child's life. JRS has long considered education a life-saving intervention and we recognize that it is our lasting contribution to long-term durable solutions to conflicts.

ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATION

Advocacy is an integral part of the JRS mission and of our daily activities around the world. Addressing the root causes of human displacement and striving to change unjust policies are fundamental to the JRS mandate. In JRS, advocacy involves empowering forcibly displaced people to claim the rights to which they are entitled, and assisting them to exercise those rights.

HEALTH & MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

The contribution from the health sector is to provide essential health services, including preventive and promotive interventions that are effective in reducing health risks. MHPSS is rooted in the close accompaniment of forcibly displaced people by JRS. JRS tries to place special emphasis on being with rather than doing for. Its presence among refugees needs to be one of sharing with them, of accompaniment, of walking together along the same path. MHPSS covers a range of involvement, from offering a listening ear, to professional counselling, to therapy for mental health problems. This support is crucial for uprooted people like forcibly displaced who often live in total isolation.



Seamless Integration: The Cornerstone of Our Mission

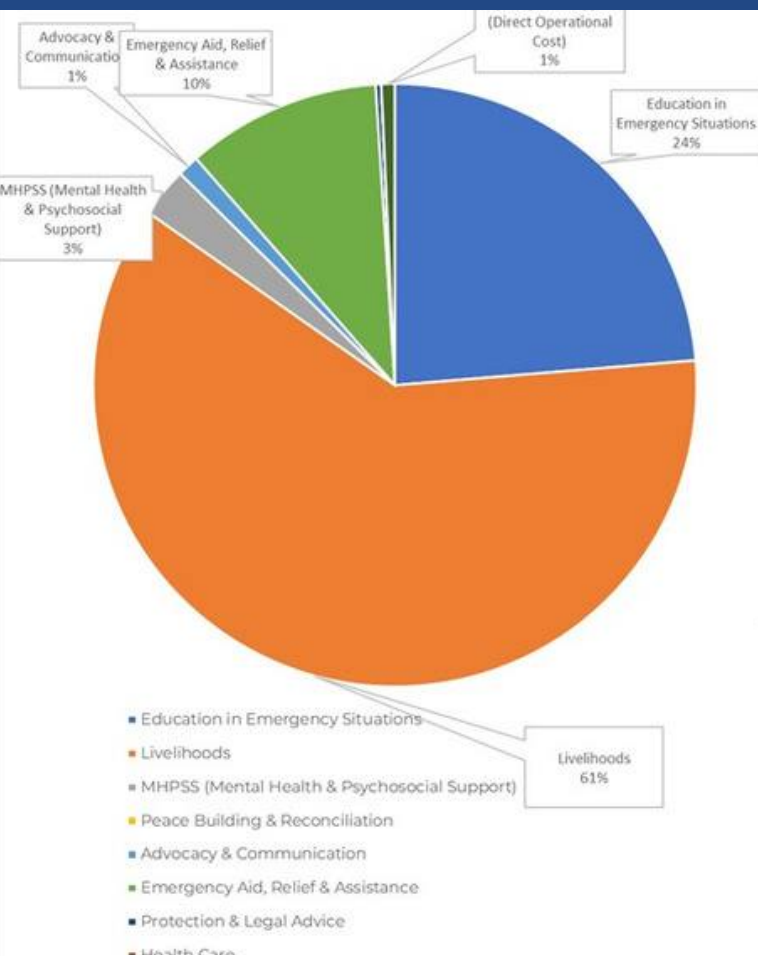
At the heart of JRS Romania's mission lies an unwavering commitment to integration, a pivotal and holistic approach that transcends traditional silos. Unlike framing integration as a standalone endeavor, we consider it a foundational element intricately woven into the fabric of every project we undertake. Whether championing advocacy, securing housing, promoting employment, facilitating language courses, providing mental health and psychosocial support, or shaping public policy, integration is the common thread that binds our initiatives. Recognizing that refugees and forcibly displaced persons deserve more than isolated solutions, we view integration as the linchpin for sustainable change. By fostering interconnectedness across diverse sectors, we empower individuals to not only rebuild their lives but also contribute meaningfully to the communities they join. Our approach mirrors the intricate tapestry of human experience, acknowledging that true resilience and enduring solutions emerge when integration is not an isolated goal but an integral part of every endeavor.



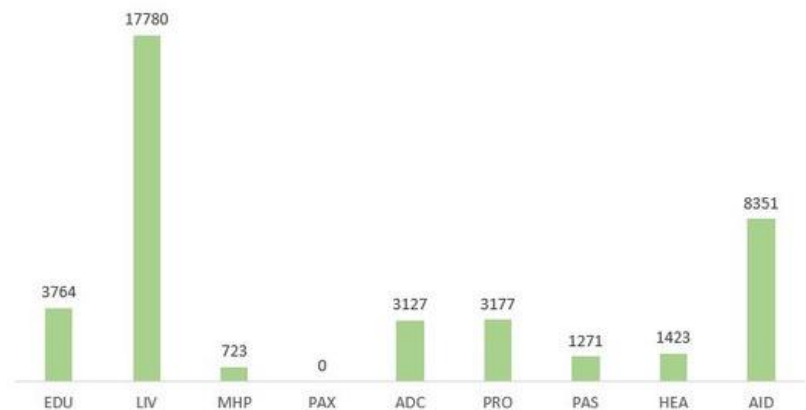
FINANCIAL REPORT

EXPENDITURE: \$5,313,020

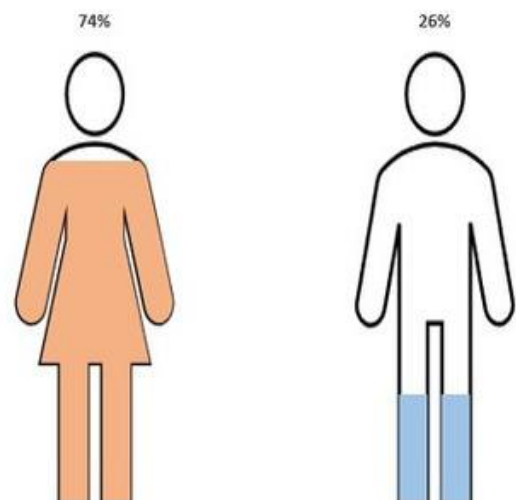
INCOME: \$5,411,108



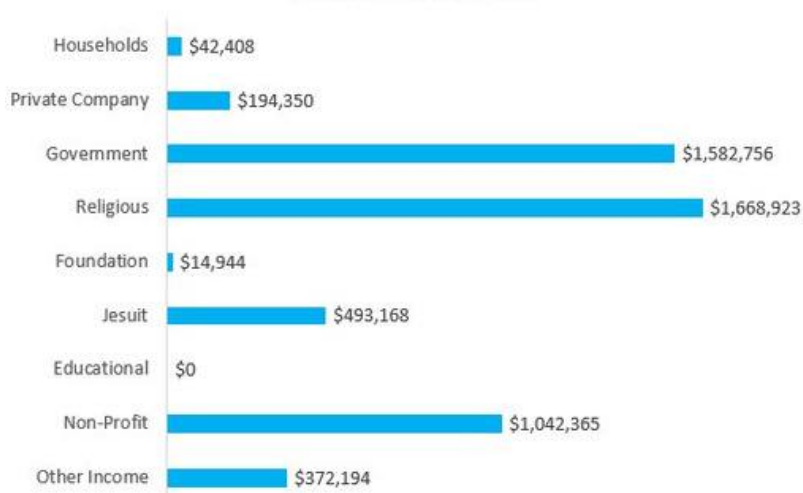
People Served by Category



Gender Composition of People Served



Source of Income in USD



LIVELIHOODS

In the face of forced displacement, fostering secure livelihoods goes beyond economic self-sufficiency; it becomes a holistic journey towards empowerment, dignity, and community integration. JRS Romania recognizes livelihoods as a multifaceted concept, encapsulating capabilities, assets, and opportunities essential for individuals and households to navigate the challenges of displacement.



Key initiatives

Forcibly displaced persons often find themselves in a precarious situation, necessitating comprehensive support. The core of JRS Romania's livelihood initiatives is built on principles of resilience, recovery, and the preservation or enhancement of essential capabilities and assets.

Project Xavier - Bridging Basic Needs: Project Xavier stands as a testament to JRS Romania's rapid response capabilities during crises. Operating from April to July, the project distributed over 4,000 social vouchers across cities, ensuring that families in Bucharest, Galati, Baia Mare, Constanta, and Timisoara could access everyday necessities. The involvement of a dedicated team of Ukrainian workers, including translators, played a pivotal role in the efficient distribution of social vouchers.

Empowering Livelihoods and Integration: A Comprehensive Approach

Renovabis - Integrating Through Housing: In the period from June to August 2022, Renovabis focused on housing assistance, benefiting 520 individuals in 180 rented apartments nationwide. This initiative prioritized the most vulnerable, offering emergency assistance to cover basic needs, including accommodation and social support crucial for medium-term integration. The provision of social and material assistance on a monthly basis contributed significantly to the integration path.

CAFOD 1&2 through the Disaster Emergency Committee - Dignified Housing and Comprehensive Assistance: Spanning from April to August, CAFOD 1&2 emerged as a robust program, offering dignified housing and comprehensive assistance to over 1,048 individuals. This initiative went beyond mere shelter provision, encompassing legal counseling, internet access, medical services, transportation, and monthly allowances. Notably, tablets were distributed to enhance access to online education and information.

RVAR - Voluntary Repatriation with Dignity: Recognizing the aspirations of millions of refugees to return home, JRS Romania actively participated in the Voluntary Repatriation Assisted and Reintegration (RVAR) program, implemented in partnership with IOM Romania. This program, driven by the belief that voluntary repatriation is the preferred sustainable solution for many refugees, required the full commitment of the country of origin to aid in the reintegration of individuals into their communities.

Alternative - Shelter for the Invisible:

In collaboration with the Immigration and General Inspectorate (IGI) as partners of the Asylum, Migration, and Integration Fund (AMIF), the Alternative project takes a significant stride in providing shelter to an otherwise invisible group of migrants. This initiative, designed to address the needs of those liberated from detention, stands out as a crucial step in recognizing and assisting a population often overlooked.

In tandem with its livelihood-focused initiatives, JRS Romania spearheads "A New House" (ONC), an AMIF project conducted in partnership with General Inspectorate of Immigration. This project is strategically aligned to streamline the integration of beneficiaries of international protection in Romania. With a laser focus on securing housing for vulnerable individuals,



Key initiatives

ONC has identified and provided tailored support to 558 refugees. Informed by thorough vulnerability assessments, the project not only ensures access to secure housing, including private residences and apartments but also crafts personalized integration strategies. In doing so, ONC contributes significantly to the holistic well-being and stable livelihoods of refugees, fostering a sense of belonging and community within the regional landscape. This initiative stands as a testament to JRS's commitment to comprehensive support for those seeking refuge in Romania.



In conclusion, JRS Romania's approach to empowering livelihoods is a comprehensive endeavor that extends beyond immediate relief. By intertwining economic self-sufficiency with broader themes of integration, education, protection, and well-being, these initiatives pave the way for sustainable futures for forcibly displaced persons. The organization's commitment to a holistic approach ensures that individuals and communities are not merely recipients of aid but active participants in their journey towards empowerment and integration.

Cross-cutting themes

- 1. Integration and Community Connection:** Beyond immediate relief, JRS Romania recognizes the importance of fostering integration and community connections. CAFOD 1&2 and the Alternative project exemplify how dignified housing initiatives can serve as bridges, connecting refugees and migrants with local communities. The creation of a supportive community environment around the organization is deemed critical for long-term well-being.
- 2. Empowering Through Education:** Education is a cornerstone of JRS Romania's livelihood support. Technical training, educational activities, and the distribution of tablets in various projects underscore the organization's commitment to empowering individuals through knowledge. The focus on education is not only a pathway to economic self-sufficiency but also a means to restore confidence and autonomy.
- 3. Protection and Vulnerable Groups:** JRS Romania places a strong emphasis on the protection of vulnerable groups, recognizing the unique challenges faced by women, victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), and minors. Collaborations with experts and relevant actors ensure that livelihood initiatives incorporate specialized assistance, legal counseling, and protection services.
- 4. Health and Well-being:** A holistic approach to livelihoods extends to the health and well-being of displaced individuals. JRS Romania's partnerships with medical clinics, foundations, and organizations contribute to overall health. Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) interventions are seamlessly integrated into response strategies, acknowledging the interconnectedness of mental well-being and livelihoods.



EDUCATION IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

In times of crisis, education emerges as a beacon of hope and stability for forcibly displaced children. Recognizing its life-saving potential, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Romania embarked on a transformative journey in April 2022, shaping a comprehensive educational program for Ukrainian refugee children. This chapter delves into the core philosophy, initiatives, and collaborative efforts that have made education a cornerstone of resilience and integration for 3,764 individuals.

Foundations of Lifelong Impact:

For vulnerable displaced children, schools transcend beyond classrooms; they become sanctuaries of normalcy and hope. JRS, understanding the profound impact of education on long-term durable solutions to conflicts, embraced a mission to provide not just learning but a lifeline for those fleeing war.

COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM:

JRS Romania's educational program stands as a testament to a broader approach aimed at fostering self-reliance among refugees and supporting their comprehensive integration.

With a dual purpose of promoting social cohesion and facilitating parental participation in the labor market, the program strategically engages over 100 Ukrainian teachers seconded to Romanian schools.

INCLUSIVE LEARNING SPACES

The project's impact resonates in the enrollment of over 2,500 children across various locations, including Bucharest, Constanta, Galati, Braila, Ploiesti, and Medias. Through 23 Education Hubs and educational centers, JRS Romania has created inclusive learning spaces where Ukrainian children continue their national educational curriculum while interacting with Romanian peers.

KINDERGARTEN INITIATIVES

Recognizing the importance of normalizing school experiences, JRS initiated projects opening and supporting kindergartens, employing Ukrainian teachers in Bucharest and Constanta while ensuring educational continuity and expanding opportunities for more children. Beyond traditional classrooms, workshops and educational activities in safe spaces further enrich the learning experience.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

Built on the foundation of a Plan International initiative, the educational project thrives on collaboration. UNICEF supports new educational centers in areas with smaller refugee communities, focusing on peer-to-peer mentoring and psychological support. World Vision addresses nutritional needs, providing hot meals to children engaged in educational activities in Constanta and Galati.



LONG-TERM IMPACT

Education, for JRS Romania, is not just a short-term intervention but a commitment to shaping a resilient future. By intertwining the national curricula of Ukraine and Romania, fostering social cohesion, and creating inclusive learning environments, the educational program becomes a cornerstone for integration, wellbeing, and lifelong success. In the crucible of displacement and uncertainty, education emerges as a transformative force, offering refuge, normalcy, and hope. JRS Romania's commitment to education in emergency situations embodies the spirit of resilience, collaboration, and the unwavering belief that, through learning, a brighter future can be forged for every displaced child.

ONE PROPOSAL

Jesuit response to the Ukraine Crisis

24/02/2022 - 31/12/2022
ANNUAL REPORT

The initiation of an International Armed Conflict in Ukraine on 24/02/2022 has caused the largest humanitarian crisis in Europe in recent history. Millions have been forced to flee their homes, and millions more remain displaced or in need in Ukraine. Upon the outbreak of this conflict, the Society of Jesus coordinated a global response through JRS and Xavier Network in Ukraine, neighboring countries, and the rest of Europe to welcome, protect, promote, and integrate those in need.

**People served
in 1 year** **56,042**

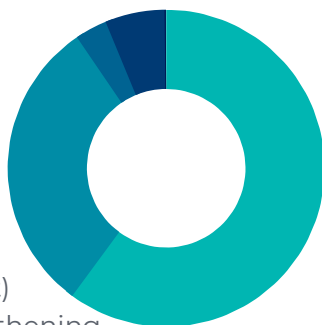
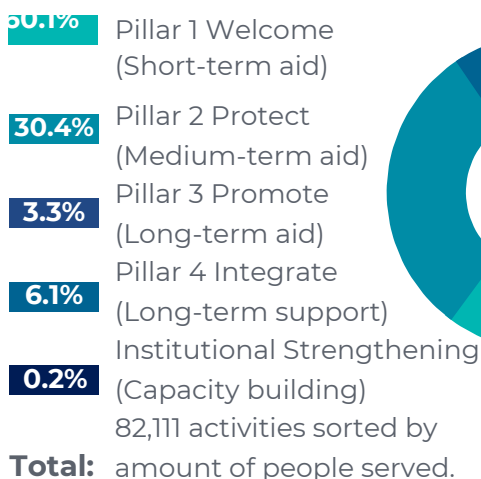
3 year *

projection

73,168

*The projection was done at the start of the project and will be revised annually.

Activities overview



Viola's Story

Viola, 51 years old and used to work in an orchestra in Nicolaev as a music teacher. She had to flee her hometown of Nicolaev with her 15-year-old son, when they saw "no more ending approaching". In the spring of 2022, they arrived in Moldova, struggling to find a place to live. Concordia's team helped them find warmth, safety, and support. "Thanks to you, we were able to escape the cold, heal and start building a new life."



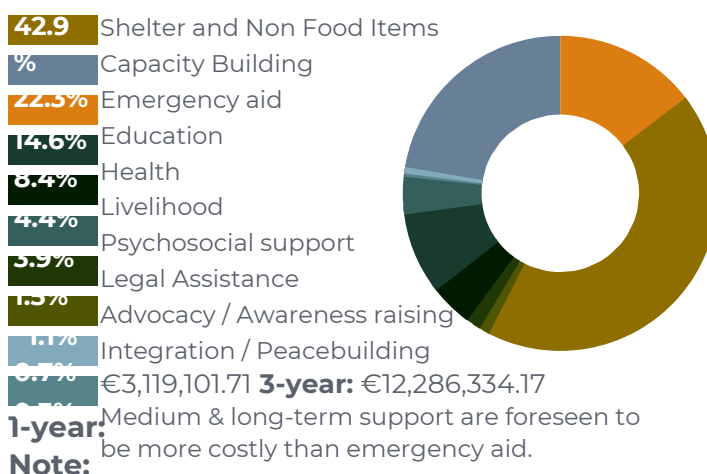
Countries involved in the response

Ukraine. Neighbouring countries

Countries of secondary movement



Financial overview



Sturnikova's Story

On 24/2, Sturnikova was awakened in a park by the shelling. "I couldn't really believe it wasn't a nightmare, but when in the bathroom my glass

shook from another blow,

realized that this wasn't

a bad dream". She sought

refuge in Nowy Sącz, where she is supported by JRS Poland. "I see a lot of support here and the kind of psychological help JRS provides. You are dragging out my compatriots of the chasm they have fallen into".



PARTNERS



JESUITS





PROTECTION

Presence in the field

Our dedicated presence in all asylum centers, public custody centers, and relevant border points allowed us to monitor and advocate for the most vulnerable and marginalized individuals. Collaborating with authorities, we actively worked towards improving legislation, procedures, and the information provided to those in need of protection. This included ensuring access to fundamental rights.

Empowering the Voice of Refugees

In collaboration with refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants, we identified sustainable solutions to their challenges. Our commitment to amplifying their voices resulted in strategic legal assistance, focusing on cases with the potential to bring about national-level practice changes. We underscored the need for the protection of children in particular.

Focus on Unaccompanied Minors

A significant aspect of our protection work in 2022 centered on assisting unaccompanied minors. Given the high number of minor asylum seekers, with many of them being unaccompanied, we provided child-friendly counseling and information, mediated relationships between unaccompanied minors and legal representatives, offered specialized legal representation, and continued advocacy efforts to eliminate the detention of unaccompanied minors.

Holistic Support: Beyond Legal Advocacy

Our Protection initiatives in Ukraine extended beyond legal advocacy. We provided holistic support for vulnerable refugee populations, including healthcare, education, and psychosocial services. By creating community-based centers, we fostered a sense of belonging and solidarity among refugees, recognizing the importance of a comprehensive approach to well-being.



Legal Counseling and Accompaniment

JRS Romania prioritized legal counseling and accompaniment services to ensure that refugees understood their rights and had the necessary support throughout legal processes. Our legal experts provided guidance on asylum applications, residence permits, and other legal matters, accompanying individuals through often complex legal procedures.

Safe Shelter and Counseling to Prevent Human Trafficking

Recognizing the heightened risk of human trafficking among displaced populations, JRS Romania implemented programs to provide safe shelter and counseling. These initiatives aimed to prevent human trafficking by offering secure accommodation options and counseling services that addressed the specific vulnerabilities faced by refugees.

Policy Engagement for Systemic Changes

Our active engagement with policymakers at local, national, and international levels sought to influence systemic changes favoring refugees. Through policy briefs, roundtable discussions, and strategic alliances, we advocated for inclusive policies, fair asylum processes, and the removal of systemic barriers hindering the well-being of displaced populations.

Looking Ahead: A Resilient Future for Ukrainian Refugees

As we navigate the unique challenges presented in Ukraine, JRS Romania remains committed to a comprehensive approach to Refugee Protection. By safeguarding dignity, advocating for rights, and addressing immediate and long-term needs, we strive to nurture hope and resilience among those forced to flee.



Fostering Partnerships for Holistic Support

One cornerstone partnership established by JRS Romania is with the Regina Maria Social Clinic. This collaboration brings free weekly medical consultations to the heart of support — JRS's office in Bucharest. Recognizing the intersectionality of health and mental well-being, this initiative ensures that individuals have access to essential medical care, transcending barriers and fostering a holistic approach to support.

HEALTH

In our unwavering commitment to holistic well-being, JRS Romania recognizes the profound impact of mental health on the lives of refugees and migrants. The year 2022 saw the implementation of robust Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) initiatives, addressing the unique challenges faced by displaced communities, particularly in the context of Ukraine.

MHM Kits and Comprehensive Support

One notable accomplishment in our MHPSS endeavors was the distribution of Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) kits to more than 900 girls. Beyond basic necessities, our project unfolded a tapestry of 84 extracurricular activities, complemented by 15 daily/weekly engagements. These activities were meticulously designed to provide emotional outlets, skill-building opportunities, and a sense of normalcy in the lives of the refugee children. Additionally, over 200 teachers, volunteers, and staff members underwent basic training on education for children, enhancing their ability to provide meaningful support.





Expanding Horizons: Educational and Recreational Materials

As part of our commitment to education and recreation, the project aimed to benefit 2400 children through the provision of recreational materials. Furthermore, 1250 children were slated to benefit from tablets, bridging the digital divide and opening avenues for learning. Recognizing the integral role families play in the well-being of children, the project aimed to extend MHPSS services to 1300 children and their families, fostering a collective approach to mental health.

Creating Community: The Power of Safe Spaces

A key lesson learned underscored the importance of creating a supportive community around the organization. JRS Romania realized that fostering a sense of belonging and support among refugees goes beyond the immediate services provided. Safe spaces, aligning with the International Rescue Committee's methodology, were established in Bucharest. This initiative ensured an immediate and emergency safe environment, age and gender-appropriate activities, and early identification of those in need. A fully rented hotel in Bucharest was transformed into a haven, providing spaces for educational purposes, playrooms for children, and areas for therapeutic activities with adults.

Multi-pronged MHPSS Interventions

Collaborating with the International Rescue Committee, JRS Romania executed a multi-pronged MHPSS intervention. Prevention efforts were intertwined with responsive measures, encompassing both individual and group activities. Support groups, positive engagements, psychoeducation workshops, and individual counseling became essential components of the intervention. Specialized services were deployed for individuals with acute, severe, or persistent needs, positioning MHPSS as an entry point for Gender-Based Violence and Trafficking in Human Beings case management.





Sensiblu Foundation: Empowering Through Knowledge

In the pursuit of combating Gender-Based Violence (GBV), JRS Romania joined forces with the Sensiblu Foundation. Through this partnership, weekly training and information group sessions on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) were provided. By empowering individuals with knowledge and awareness, the collaboration aimed to not only address immediate concerns but also contribute to long-term prevention and support.

Unu si Unu Foundation: Nurturing Minds Through Art

Acknowledging the healing power of art, JRS Romania collaborated with the Unu si Unu Foundation to offer psychological support and art therapy. Through tailored sessions, individuals had the opportunity to engage in therapeutic art activities, providing an additional avenue for self-discovery and healing.

These partnerships exemplify JRS Romania's commitment to creating a comprehensive support ecosystem. By integrating medical care, addressing GBV through education, and incorporating artistic expressions into psychological support, the organization strives to offer a diverse range of resources. In doing so, JRS Romania envisions a community where individuals not only receive assistance but also actively participate in shaping their own paths towards resilience and well-being.



As we reflect on the achievements of 2022, JRS Romania remains steadfast in its commitment to nurturing resilience, fostering healing, and championing the mental health and psychosocial well-being of displaced populations. The journey continues, guided by the belief that every individual, regardless of circumstance, deserves access to the support needed for a hopeful and healthy future.



ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATION OVERVIEW

In 2022, JRS Romania embarked on a comprehensive Advocacy and Communication initiative, weaving together various projects to amplify our impact and champion the rights of migrants and refugees. Our efforts were guided by a commitment to reshape narratives, influence policy changes, and foster a more inclusive and compassionate approach to migration.

Challenging Detention Practices

Central to our advocacy stance was the "Advancing Detention Immigration Reform" project. This initiative sought to challenge the prevailing consensus on immigration detention, especially in the context of European policies. By presenting fact-based knowledge on detention conditions and their impact, we aimed to influence policymakers and foster public awareness on the need for alternatives to detention.

This project spanned numerous European countries, including Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Through systematic monitoring and documentation, we strived to increase consensus among policymakers on the imperative to reduce and eventually eliminate immigration detention.

EMPOWERING REFUGEES FOR SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

In tandem with our advocacy against detention practices, the PROMISE project played a pivotal role in empowering refugees. Through skills training, education, and community-building, and through the first-ever Migrant Forum created in Romania, PROMISE aimed to create sustainable pathways for refugees' integration into their host communities. By focusing on long-term empowerment, PROMISE contributed to challenging narratives that frame refugees as burdens, emphasizing their potential and resilience.

RESPONDING TO GLOBAL CRISES: UKRAINIAN FUNDRAISING

Amidst global challenges, we responded with agility and compassion. Our fundraising campaign for Ukrainian refugees showcased our dedication to immediate humanitarian needs and a commitment to advocating for comprehensive, long-term solutions. Beyond financial support, our advocacy efforts aimed to highlight the human stories behind the crisis, fostering empathy and understanding among our supporters.



Artistic Collaboration for Advocacy: Tom Odell Charity Concert

In a unique fusion of art and advocacy, JRS Romania collaborated with Choose Love to bring acclaimed artist Tom Odell to host a charity concert in Romania, in the main train station which was the main arrival point for Ukrainian refugees in Bucharest. This event not only generated crucial funds for our mission but also provided a platform to communicate our advocacy messages to a diverse audience. Through the universal language of music, we expanded our reach and reinforced our commitment to compassionate migration policies.

Looking Forward: Integrated Advocacy Approach

As we enter 2023, our Advocacy and Communication efforts remain integrated and forward-looking. By blending projects seamlessly, we aim to continue influencing policy changes, challenging harmful narratives, and fostering a more inclusive and empathetic approach to migration. Our commitment to reshaping public perceptions





EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION

As Ukrainians sought sanctuary, JRS responded swiftly, initially utilizing available resources. The Pedro Arrupe Centre, typically designated for tolerated persons on Romanian territories, became a refuge, accommodating up to 20 people in transit for short periods. This center provided a buffer space for assessing individual needs and facilitating integration through services like legal counseling, vouchers, and cultural activities.

EMERGENCY AID A BEACON IN CRISIS

From the very onset of the Russian invasion into Ukraine, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Romania embraced a role of immediate refuge for those in distress. This chapter illuminates the evolution of emergency aid provided by JRS, a journey that commenced with spontaneous assistance and evolved into a structured, comprehensive response, offering solace and support to Ukrainian refugees.

Recognizing the need for more extended support, JRS secured a fully rented hotel for medium-term accommodation, accommodating 309 vulnerable refugees. This space not only offered shelter and meals but also served as a platform for therapeutic, educational, and recreational activities. The central location facilitated access to essential services, creating a conducive environment for the refugees during their transition.

The hotel emerged as a critical component of JRS's emergency response, serving as a refuge for individuals newly arriving in Romania or those left without accommodation. This temporary haven particularly catered to single women with children or those accompanied by elderly relatives. Beyond shelter, the hotel offered a sanctuary for therapy, educational, cultural, and recreational activities. This inclusive approach sought not only to meet immediate needs but also to facilitate a smoother adaptation process for the beneficiaries.

MEDIUM TO LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS:

As a pivotal aspect of the Emergency Accommodation Plan, JRS arranged for the subsidization of private apartments for up to 5 months, providing stability and continuity for 82 families. The transition from short-term accommodation to private apartments aimed at empowering individuals to manage independently after finding employment.



MATERIAL ASSISTANCE

To maximize integration opportunities, JRS implemented a multifaceted strategy of financial assistance, including cash aid and vouchers. These were instrumental in supporting refugees during their initial resettlement period. The financial aid aimed at empowering individuals to make essential purchases and access services crucial for their well-being.

Concerning cash aid, the partnership with Caritas Austria made it possible to reach 7,500 total beneficiaries, using social vouchers to facilitate the purchase of basic necessities such as food, sanitary products, clothing, and shoes. And with the assistance of CORE, it was possible to identify numerous people with disabilities and so, to cover this need, a social card worth 540 lei was created and distributed to the neediest families for a period of three months, benefiting 387 Ukrainian families, as well as distributing 300 blankets to the most vulnerable refugees.

We were also supported by our partnership with Plan Japan to cover the basic and urgent needs of women, girls and boys affected by the Ukrainian crisis by distributing over 13,000 vouchers. We tried to identify which basic needs had not been specifically addressed by other projects in order to achieve synergies. The direct involvement of Ukrainians in the management of the program is essential. This not only helps to build trust between refugees and the organization, but it also promotes a sense of shared responsibility for the welfare of all members of the community.



EMERGENCY AID

In tandem with monetary support, JRS established a charity shop within its premises. This innovative initiative provided refugees with a dignified shopping experience, allowing them to select essential items such as hygiene kits, menstrual products, diapers, toothpaste, toothbrushes, laundry detergent, non-perishable food items, clothing, and more. The charity shop became a space where individuals could "shop" for free, promoting choice and agency in fulfilling their specific needs. This holistic approach not only addressed immediate material requirements but also fostered a sense of dignity and autonomy among beneficiaries. The charity shop, functioning as a beacon of generosity, reflected JRS's commitment to not only meet basic needs but also to restore a sense of normalcy and agency to those affected by the Ukrainian crisis.

Psycho-Social Support and Beyond

Integral to the emergency aid provided was the provision of psychological and emotional support services, psychotherapy, legal assistance, and counseling. The multifaceted approach also encompassed recreational and educational activities for children, Romanian language teaching, social assistance, enrolment in educational institutions, and career guidance.



Thank you

We couldn't have done it without your generous support.

