



15,324

children and adults benefited from our activities and services in 2023

12,000

Ukrainian refugees benefited from our services in 2023

30

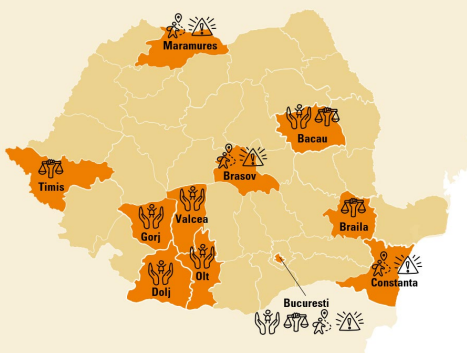
publications and original resources were created by our teams or contracted authors in 2023

Context

As reported violence in schools remains high in Romania (5,400 cases on national level according to official figures last year), we focused our efforts on prevention projects and educational activities. The restorative practices have been particularly appreciated, as we further encouraged their application especially in school-related contexts.

At the same time, we continued our care and support for migrant and refugee children, as over 83.000 Ukrainians were registered in Romania at the end of 2023 (a third of them being children), according to UNHCR figures.

Intervention map



General overview

In 2023, Terre des hommes Romania (Tdh) has worked to protect the rights of children, as it has for the past 30 years in the country.

Our two major programmes in Romania are Children and youth on the Move (including the Response to the Ukrainian crisis) and Access to Justice for children and youth. Each of them includes several projects financed by institutional donors who entrusted us to offer our expertise and support to children and vulnerable communities.

We are particularly known for:

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

Our thematic priorities



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



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



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



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

Our impact in 2023

Children and young people on the move

On the one hand, we trained professionals working with Ukrainians to use several methodologies: Problem Management +, Reach Now and Movement Games Sport and Creativity. These are essential in addressing light mental health distresses and supporting integration. The professionals were Romanian, as well as Ukrainian and Arabic. On the other, interventions to prevent school drop out among Romanian children have taken place on multiple levels in vulnerable communities (affected by the migration of parents): professional training of teachers, improvement of more than 20 learning spaces, tailored assistance to schools and technological equipment.

Access to justice for children and young people

To prevent gender-based violence in schools, we created a tailored methodology for teachers to implement with their students. Additionally, more than 200 children in Romania organized 14 events within their communities, showing how violence can be prevented by challenging gender norms. Also, with the goal of preventing violence, we organised trainings with teachers on restorative justice and awareness sessions with children.

Highlight project: Support for Ukrainian refugees

We focused on education in our three Resilience Innovation Facilities (i.e. digital innovation spaces) in Bucharest, Brasov and Constanta. IT tools, services, and community connections were built for and with children and youth affected by migration. Activities varied from digital skills building, Romanian and English language courses, educational support (afterschool) to movement, games, sport and arts, as well as participation in child advisory boards, and individual and group psychosocial support. We organised events for children and their families that helped integration and built the sense of community. Our teams have also worked within schools or migration centers in Brasov and Bucharest, while our partner in Constanta operated a separate center.

"In our consultations, we, the children, agreed that our most important needs are to be heard and be involved, to feel our families united, and to access psycho-social support."

Sofia Havrilova, 14, member of our Child Advisory Board, speaking at the Global Refugee Forum in Geneva in 2023.

Outlook

We continue our innovative projects for children who are in contact with the law in other contexts (educational centers and detention) and ensure their rights are respected. We will extend our support for migrant children in Romania, which now includes educational and integration activities for Ukrainian, but also third country nationals.

Advocacy

Young migrants can now advocate more efficiently for their needs in Romania, their access to services and basic rights. We helped set up a Migrant Forum, formed of 11-15 youth of migrant background, from various countries, whom we trained in advocacy. The intervention was part of the PROMISE project, dedicated to protecting unaccompanied migrant minors.

Main partners and donors

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

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



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As the leading Swiss child rights organisation, created in 1960, Terre des hommes stands together with children to uphold their rights, protect their lives and improve their well-being. In 2023, we supported over 5.2 million children and members of their communities in more than 30 countries.



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