



NEW CONTEXT

The beginning of September saw an increase of people returning to Ukraine from different places, most of them from Bulgaria. They are targeting safe destinations in Ukraine.

Young male students are transferring or enrolling to Romanian Universities.

The newcomers are mostly elder people. They flee Ukraine to reunite with their children who are already settled in Romania.

LOCATIONS:



- 3 border crossing points: SIRET, SCULENI, ISACCEA
- 2 transit points: SUCEAVA and IASI
- 1 HUB – ROMEXPO BUCHAREST
- 6 COUNTIES: BUCHAREST, TULCEA, IASI, SUCEAVA, CLUJ, DOLJ

GENERAL CONTEXT

According to the border police official numbers, approximately 2,317,000 Ukrainian citizens and TCNs have crossed the borders in Romania since pre-conflict time (February 10) until now. On September 15 there were about 82,240 Ukrainian citizens currently in Romania, and 68,695 citizens received Temporary Protection. Considering the exceptional situation, to facilitate the communication between the people fleeing Ukraine and the authorities, IOM Romania developed a network of interpreters available in key locations.

OVERALL 17,300 BENEFICIARIES
1-15 SEPTEMBER 2,000 BENEFICIARIES

ASSISTED BY

26 SENTINELS

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Siret border

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OVERALL 6,400 HOURS ON DUTY
1-15 SEPTEMBER 850 HOURS

The sentinels at the borders work in shifts, 24x7

KEY LOCATIONS



Border crossing points:
Siret, Sculeni, Isaccea



Train stations:
Suceava



Hospitals



Schools



Hubs: Romexpo



Collective centers



Immigration Offices

New Trends

Focus: Isaccea Border Crossing Point



In Isaccea border the flow doubled in both ways on September 3rd. Since this day, more than 1,000 people in each direction cross the border daily, comparing with an average of 500 per way in August and July. They wait sometimes half a day for the ferry crossing.

Most of the people who return to Ukraine come from Bulgaria, although the sentinels met people coming from Türkiye, Georgia or Syria. The main motivation for returning is that they have various businesses to take care of. Some of them admit they couldn't settle in the host countries or that the cost of living was too high (Sweden, Switzerland, Germany).

Most of them have Temporary Protection in a MS and are confident that if the situation in Ukraine escalates, they could go back to the host country without problems.

Nobody returns to the occupied oblasts. They go to Kyiv, Odessa or to relatives in villages near big cities. The town of Izmail, located near Isceea border has grown in population by 45% since the conflict began.

Young male students from Ukrainian port cities, mainly Odessa, transferred to study in Constanta at The Naval Academy.

Most people crossing the border in Romania are not newcomers. They are already crossing the second or third time, moving their belongings from Ukraine. They prefer to live in counties near the border, like Braila, Galati and Tulcea because the cost of living is not very high there. Constanta and Bucharest remain the favorite destinations in Romania. The sentinels also noticed that many are fascinated by the cities Sibiu and Brasov and want to live there.

In general, those who come for the first time are elderly people. These are parents who come to their children who are already settled.

Ukrainians living in Romania are organized in very large Telegram groups where they exchange information and offer each other support.

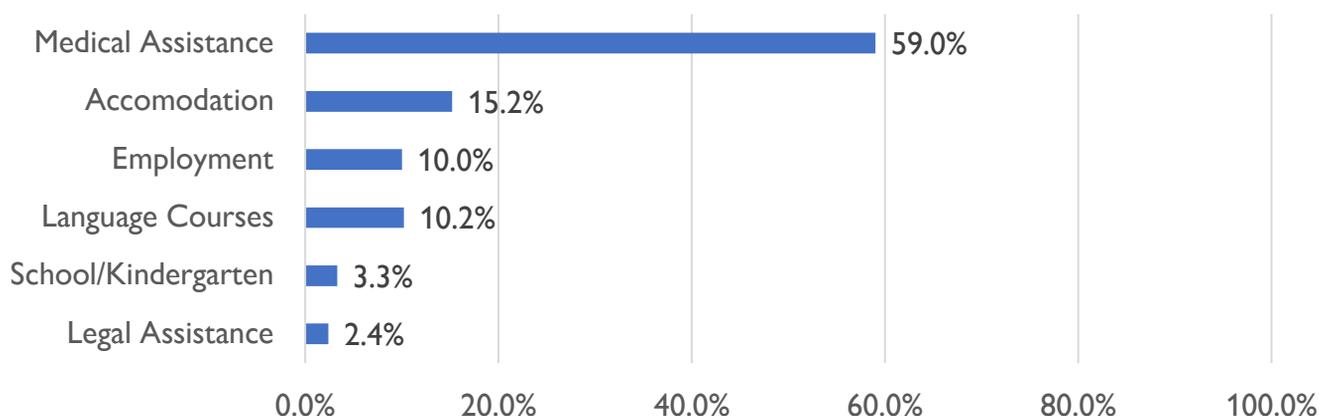


Top Priorities and Needs identified by Sentinels

RomExpo hub:

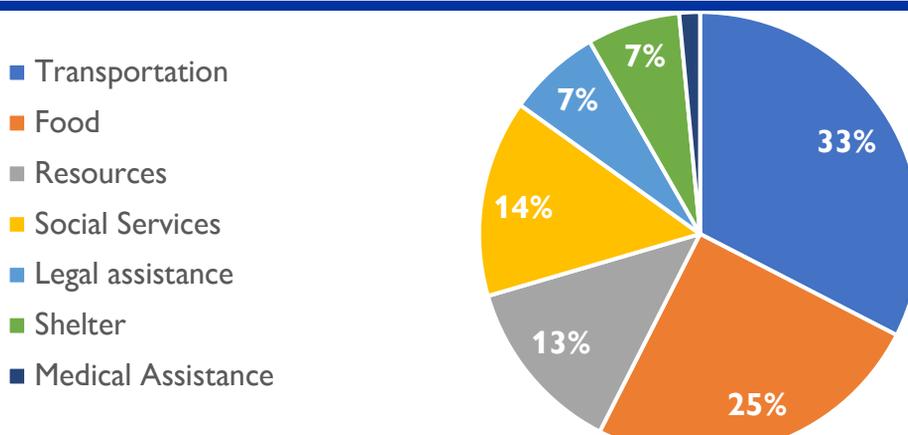
In the time interval 1-15 September, the sentinels at RomExpo Hub in Bucharest assisted about 433 people, offering information and help to Ukrainian citizens for enrolling in the IOM programs of inclusion and integration. According to the sentinels' reports, the requests for medical assistance, including dentistry increased and continues to be the top priority. IOM doctors refer the medical cases to a medical clinic where the sentinels provide the translation.

Once the school started, the request for enrolling to schools and kindergartens decreased, but the need for Romanian language courses increased.



At the borders:

The sentinels at the borders provide translation for the Ukrainian citizens and for the authorities. They collect information and observe any change. According to the daily report provided, in the time interval 1-15 September, the main request of the Ukrainian citizens concerned transportation to the train station/airport or to various places nearby. People also asked for food, access to different resources and social assistance.



New projects: Sentinels in schools

Sentinels go to schools to offer support to Romanian teachers and Ukrainian children attending classes.

The World Bank implements in schools a pilot program to ensure the inclusion of Ukrainian children in Romanian education system. The IOM sentinels provide translation.