



GENERAL CONTEXT

According to official border police numbers, approximately 2,465,000 Ukrainian citizens and TCNs have entered Romania since from 10 February until 30 September. As of 30 September, there were more than 86,000 Ukrainian citizens currently in Romania, and more than 70,000 had received Temporary Protection. To facilitate the communication between the people fleeing Ukraine and the authorities, IOM Romania has developed a network of Sentinels. These are linguistic interpreters and cultural mediators, available in key locations across Romania.

NEW CONTEXT

The recent self-called referenda, followed by the annexation of four Ukrainian regions, resulted a change in the flow of people entering Romania via Ukraine and Moldova. The number of people crossing into Romania significantly increased, while the returns slowed. The change was however not noticed along the north border, in Siret.

The number of elderly persons crossing continues to be high. Men accompanying persons with disabilities are now allowed to leave Ukraine. The forthcoming cold weather is reportedly expected to generate an increase in people leaving Ukraine.

OVERALL 19,100 BENEFICIARIES
16-30 SEPTEMBER 1,800 BENEFICIARIES

ASSISTED BY

26 SENTINELS

LOCATIONS:



- | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Ana RADULESCU — Coordinator | Aliona MOISE — | |
| Cristina CHIDESA — | Eva MILEAH — | |
| Niculina CLAPON — | Maricica CIUBARA — | |
| Kateryna MARYNA — | Aurelia ZHAMAN — | Bucuresti |
| Diana FRASENIUC — | Iryna SUMERINA — | |
| Doritsa GUZUN — | Angela REGULSKA — | |
| | Tatiana VIDRASCO — | |
| Denis TUTUNARU — | Yevheniia PROKUSHEVA — | |
| Gregor EPIFANOV — | Elena TAULEANU — | |
| Alexandru DENISOV — | | |
| | Viorica PARASCHIV — Craiova | |
| Elena PROZOROVSKI — | Raisa BUZHAK — Cluj-Napoca | |
| Cantîr VITALIE — | | |
| Otilia GRUBII — | | |
| Liakhu NAZARIIE — | | |
| Luiza HANGAN — Suceava train station | | |
| Andrei BAITANI — Iasi | | |



- **Three Border crossing points:** SIRET, SCULENI, and ISACCEA
- **Two Transit Points:** SUCEAVA and IASI
- **One Hub:** ROMEXPO BUCHAREST
- **Six Counties:** BUCHAREST, TULCEA, IASI, SUCEAVA, CLUJ, and DOLJ

OVERALL 7,250 HOURS ON DUTY
16-30 SEPTEMBER 850 HOURS

The sentinels at the borders work in shifts
24 hours a day, 7 days a week

KEY LOCATIONS

Border crossing points: Siret, Sculeni, Isaccea	Train stations: Suceava	Hospitals	Schools	Hubs: Romexpo	Collective centers	Immigration Offices

New Trends

Focus: Isaccea & Sculeni Border Crossing Points

The recent self-called referenda, followed by the annexation of four Ukrainian regions, saw an increase of Ukrainian citizens crossing the borders in Isaccea and Sculeni. The number of buses transporting people was noted to have increased significantly. People fleeing from far-away regions reported they felt bus transportation was safer and cheaper. The regions of origin are: Zaporizka, Dnipropetrovska, Vinnytska, Kyivska, Kirovohredska. Car transportation was noted to be used for heavy baggage, especially for moving the winter belongings. The cold weather in September saw an increase in border crossings. The Sentinels found out that the Ukrainian citizens were reporting they were afraid of winter rush and wished to secure a place to stay in Romania or Bulgaria before a huge wave of fellow Ukrainians would do the same.

The number of elderly persons coming continued to grow. Most of them were reported to be travelling to their children and other family members who were already settled. The new rule regarding men aged 18 to 60 years who are allowed to cross the border accompanying persons with disabilities made an immediate effect. The Sentinels observed an increase of men, some being sailors, that crossed the border. The persons who returned to Ukraine reported travelling for documents, winter belongings, and in some cases to provide supplies procured in Romania to those remaining in Ukraine. Citizens of Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Türkiye, and Syria, having residence permits in Ukraine, reported returning for business.



Focus: Siret Border Crossing point

At the border crossing point in Siret, the flow of people did not change significantly. The average number of arrivals was about 3,000 Ukrainian citizens per day in the last weeks of September. The Siret border crossing point is located in northern Romania and is mainly used by the internal displaced people in Ukraine that decided to flee.

People inhabiting the villages in Chernivetska oblast reported they were coming to Suceava county in order to eat and collect hygiene products.

Insights from Ukrainians crossing the border

Ukrainians fleeing the country talk about the doubling price for food and gas prices. They say retired people are in a very difficult situation because of the prices.

The real estate has dramatically changed. Some people are trying to sell their properties intending to buy a property in the country of destination. The rent for an apartment at the sea in Odesa is now three times cheaper than before the war, while the huge demand for houses in western regions made the rent five times higher than before the war.

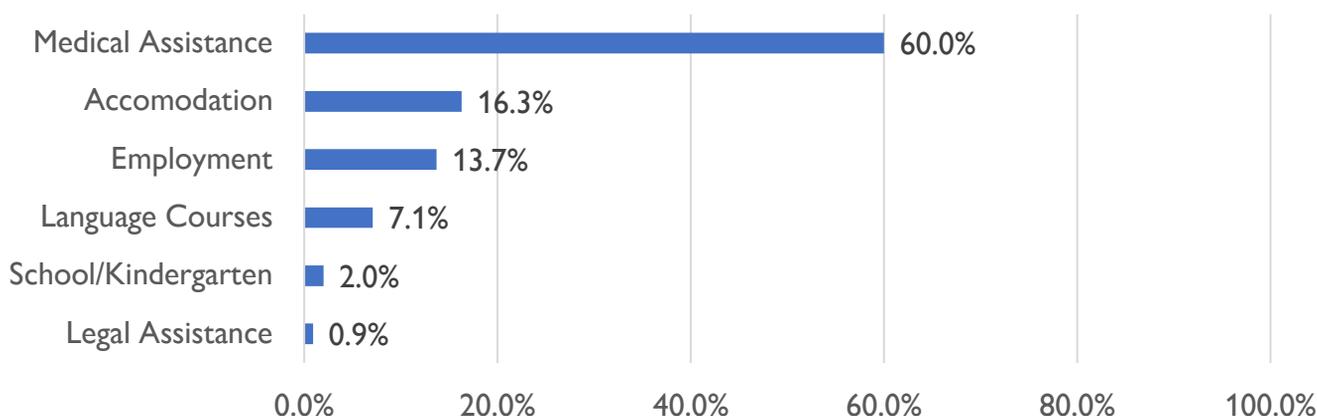
People coming from Odesa reported that drones were flying daily over the city.

Top Priorities and Needs identified by Sentinels

RomExpo Hub

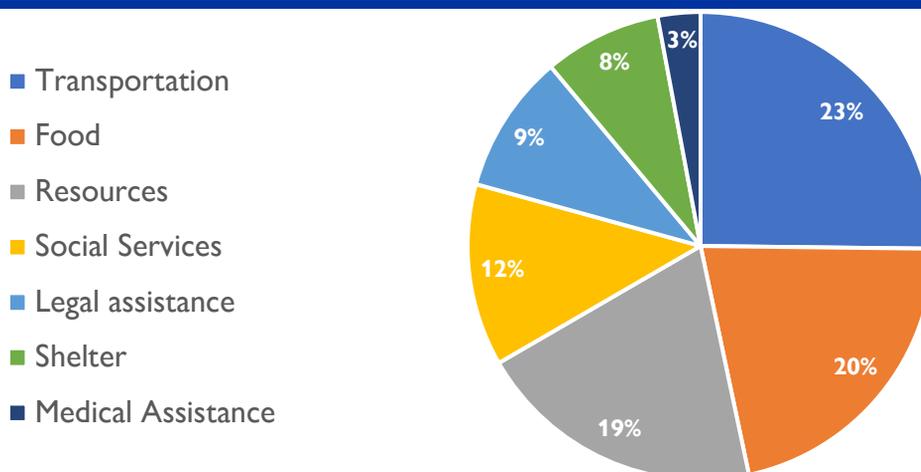
Between 16 and 30 September, the Sentinels at the RomExpo Hub in Bucharest assisted over 410 people, offering information and help to Ukrainian citizens for enrolling in the IOM programmes of inclusion and integration. According to the Sentinels, the requests for medical assistance, including dentistry, continued to be the top priority. IOM doctors refer the medical cases to medical clinics, where the Sentinels provide translation.

The search for employment significantly increased in the last two weeks of September. The gender proportion of persons looking for a job was two-thirds females and one-third males. The number of requests regarding education dropped.



At the borders

The Sentinels at the borders provide translation for the Ukrainian citizens and for the authorities. According to the reports provided, in the period of 16 to 30 September, the main requests from Ukrainian citizens concerned transportation to the train station/airport or to various places nearby. It was reported that people also asked for food, access to different resources, and to social assistance.



Sentinels in schools and kindergartens

Sentinels support the Romanian teachers and Ukrainian children attending classes in schools and kindergartens. The Sentinel also continue to work with the teachers that implement the World Bank pilot programme to ensure the inclusion of Ukrainian children in Romanian education system. The Sentinels provide translation and cultural mediation. Reports show that to date, primary school children were accommodated better than those going to secondary school classes.