



**SAN MARINO 20**  
**83rd UNECE meeting 22**

---

Committee on Urban Development,  
Housing and Land Management

# BUCHAREST

- emerging from crises -



## I. COVID-19 Pandemic Response

- Economic Support
- Support for the Poor and Homeless
- Support for Seniors
- Support for Children and Young People
- Support for Victims of Domestic Violence
- Local Public Health Measures
- Local Challenges

## II. Ukrainian Refugee Crisis Response

- Temporary Housing
- Preparing and Distributing Food
- North Train Station Information and Social Assistance Hub
- Managing Contributions from Civil Society
- Free Supermarket Program
- Education and Daycare
- Integration in Job Market
- Partnerships with International Humanitarian Agencies and Organizations
- Local Challenges

# COVID-19 Pandemic Response

---



## Main challenges and actions in local COVID-19 response:

- Economic support:
    - exemption from payment of tax for businesses using the public domain;
    - empowering sectors to allow the same exemptions as the municipality;
    - empowering sectors to allow facilities on building taxes, public domain renting and cancelling penalties for debts
  - Support for the poor and homeless:
    - temporary shelter facilities;
    - social services such as warm meals, bathing facilities, psychological and medical support
-

# COVID-19 Pandemic Response

---



Main challenges and actions in local COVID-19 response:

- Support for seniors:
    - daily food packages;
    - basic digital education to teach them to place orders online
  - Support for children and young people:
    - organize an online education system: training for teachers, equipment, logistical support
  - Support for victims of domestic violence:
    - developed more residential services, available nonstop, which included: support for enrolling the children in school, access to all the basic necessities, as well as psychological and medical services for the family
-

# COVID-19 Pandemic Response

---



Main challenges and actions in local COVID-19 response:

- Local public health measures:
    - organizing ERs and ICUs in hospitals for COVID-19 treatment, as well as organizing new dedicated wards;
    - creating temporary healthcare units to tackle pandemic peaks;
    - stationary and mobile vaccination centers;
    - vaccination campaigns;
    - information campaigns;
    - periodic testing for healthcare workers, social assistance personnel and social beneficiaries;
    - mobile vaccination units for homeless people
-

# COVID-19 Pandemic Response

---



Main challenges and actions in local COVID-19 response:

- Local challenges:
  - huge strain on the local public health system:
    - insufficient and overworked personnel;
    - high logistic costs;
    - ensuring quality medical services for other diseases;
    - insufficient medical infrastructure and equipments during transmission peaks
  - housing challenges:
    - loss of access to housing due to job loss, economic inactivity or salary reductions
    - sharp reduction of publicly owned housing stock
    - fluctuations in the housing market due to changes in buyer behavior
    - aging population in the city center

# Ukrainian Refugee Crisis Response

---



Main challenges and actions in local response to the Ukrainian refugee crisis:

- Temporary housing:
    - 4000 temporary beds in 92 accommodation facilities approved by the Municipal Committee for Emergencies Situations by the end of the first week of March;
    - mobilization of local civic society organizations and private citizens;
    - coordinating with national authorities to centralize information about the location of refugees and available accommodation facilities, in order to prevent human trafficking;
    - providing access to social services in publicly administered accommodation centers
    - information on how to access the government program for housing in private homes and daily food subsidies for refugees (in the second phase of the intervention)
-



# Ukrainian Refugee Crisis Response

---



Main challenges and actions in local response to the Ukrainian refugee crisis:

- Preparing and distributing food:
  - the municipality has provided over 200.000 meals just for the accommodation centers under its direct administration;
  - 20.000 for Ukrainians transiting the Bucharest airport;
  - partnership with World Central Kitchen
  - offering free non-perishable food
- North train station information and social assistance hub:
  - 4 waiting rooms in the train station, with spaces dedicated for women with infants;
  - information on how to access transportation, temporary accommodation, immediate financial or medical needs, as well as transportation to accommodation centers, to medical centers for COVID-19 testing necessary for traveling, to bus stations or to the airport

# Ukrainian Refugee Crisis Response

---



Main challenges and actions in local response to the Ukrainian refugee crisis:

- Managing contributions from civil society:
    - managing the emotional response of citizens and channeling the willingness to contribute in a helpful and coordinated way;
    - setting up 3 collection centers for donations, where we received and sorted through over 500 tons of products;
    - ensuring permanent dialogue with people through a nonstop hotline
  - Free Supermarket program:
    - offering free hygiene products and clothing for children and adults, non-perishable food, baby food, small appliances for preparing infant food, information on how to obtain the temporary residency permit and available social services;
    - over 100.000 beneficiaries, around 1.200 per day
-

# Ukrainian Refugee Crisis Response

---



Main challenges and actions in local response to the Ukrainian refugee crisis:

- Education and daycare:
  - 3 daycare centers and 2 Blue Dots;
  - 2 PrimoHub centers for daycare, learning and play;
  - 1 summer school program;
  - after school programs to help parents with full-time jobs
- Integration in job market:
  - working with local companies looking to hire Ukrainian refugees;
  - providing information about available job opportunities;
  - ensuring daycare and afterschool services
- Partnerships with international humanitarian agencies and organizations:
  - UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM, World Central Kitchen, World Vision, etc.

# Ukrainian Refugee Crisis Response

---



Main challenges and actions in local response to the Ukrainian refugee crisis:

- Local challenges:
    - preparing for the contingency scenario of an escalation of the conflict in Odessa;
    - housing in publicly owned dwellings;
    - stimulating the resident Ukrainian refugee population's interest in medium and long term integration;
    - integrating more Ukrainian children in the Romanian school system;
    - rise in rent fees all over the city and shortage of available renting units for the local population
    - managing the local population's support of long term social assistance for the Ukrainian refugees
-



THANK YOU!

