



AMURTEL Romania

NEW DIRECTIONS, NEW
SERVICES, NEW TEAMS,
SAME LOVING CARE

ANNUAL REPORT
2022

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A FEW WORDS FROM DIDI

With the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, AMURTEL Romania immediately mobilised its international network to be able to jump into action, sending a small team directly to the Siret border where thousands of refugees were streaming in daily.

It was a year of stepping up to new challenges, expanding the experiences we have in supporting children and families into the new context of the refugee response in Romania, and even to then extend similar support to Turkey. AMURTEL Romania was the first of our international network to send a team on the ground in Turkey.

We have been very fortunate to have had the support of AMURT's international disaster relief coordinator Karl Andersson, combined with the pioneering and fearless spirit of Melinda Endrefy, our Emergency Psychologist who together launched both our refugee and earthquake interventions.

I hope that like me, you also found it very rewarding to see the work expand, develop and grow this year. I am very proud that AMURTEL was able to play a significant and impactful role during such a historical moment for Europe and the world, thanks to the support that came not only from our big institutional donors, NRC, CARE-SERA-FONPC, Americares but also from so many of our supporters that stepped forward to personally contribute.

In the meantime, the children at AMURTEL Family continue to grow up, with the majority of the children now adolescents. We went on a challenging backpacking adventure this year, covering approx. 26 km despite the added challenge of a few thunderstorms during the hiking. Thanks to your support, we also were at last able to finalise the renovation of the exterior of the home. We are very happy to have the support of the Rotary club with us, which organised our annual Christmas charity dinner this year for the children.

I am also personally extremely grateful and excited to introduce to you a new member of our team, Didi Ananda Madhupurna. She is also a "Didi" (yogic nun) like me, from Bali. We are really very fortunate to have her, as she brings a high level of professional experience and qualifications in educational management with her. I am so happy that our management team is growing and benefitting from such experienced and dedicated people this year!

Didi Ananda Devapriya
President





AMURTEL ROMANIA OFFERED IMMEDIATE PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT TO 1,137 UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

Immediately following the outbreak of war in Ukraine, AMURTEL Romania, backed by CARE-SERA-FONPC funding mobilized at the Siret border, where thousands of refugees were streaming into Romania every day. **Melinda Endrefy, our emergency psychologist**, began offering immediate psychological aid to a total of 655 Ukrainian refugees within their first 72 hours in the country. She was always accompanied by her assistant, a big monkey named Oscar, and her warm smile as she spent the day actively looking for distressed refugees needing her comfort and intervention. Later, as the volume slowed at the border, AMURTEL shifted its focus to Brasov's largest refugee hub, the CATTIA center, providing Psychological First Aid (PFA) to an additional 482 refugees from July to December 2022. In total, 1,137 refugees received immediate support, aimed at stabilizing them emotionally to be able to make better decisions, and linking them to additional resources.

In addition, AMURTEL offered PFA training at the border to sensitize first responders, aid workers, and volunteers to the psychological needs of refugees and ensure that they received a warm, welcoming response. AMURTEL also advocated for self-care to prevent burnout amongst those involved in the refugee response, offering multiple sessions of art therapy, individual support, and self-care workshops both in Siret and Brasov for a total of 263 people. AMURTEL also organized four skill exchanges to pass on best practices to other organizations active at the border.

AMURTEL Romania's president Didi Deshaies, together with author Susan Perrow created three books of therapeutic stories and coloring books that aimed to provide healing metaphors to assist refugee parents and children in reconstructing meaning and hope after the losses of displacement. The books received 28,8 K views on AMURTEL's telegram channel, 134 downloads from its website therapeutic-stories.amurtel.ro and 734 orders for printed books.



"SITE-MANAGEMENT SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY-BASED RESPONSE" FUNDED BY THE NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL (NRC)

Thanks to the generous outpouring of international support at the outset of the war, AMURTEL immediately sent a team to the border, led by Karl Andersson, a seasoned disaster relief expert. At the request of ISU, the Romanian Emergency Response Department, his IT skills and site management support skills were immediately put to good use. AMURTEL facilitated good communication and collaborative problem-solving between the government officials coordinating the response and the other organizations present. It set up regular coordination meetings and the [siret.help](#) website that provided a regularly updated map of services and resources available at the border. In the first coordinating meeting in Suceava, UNHCR appreciated this work as exemplary.

By May 2022, at the invitation of NRC, AMURTEL broadened its reach, assessing needs in Brasov and Bucharest. In June, AMURTEL formed a fruitful partnership with Brasov's local government to strengthen and support the CATTIA refugee center with a site management team consisting mainly of Ukrainian refugees. In August, AMURTEL set up mobile teams in Bucharest and Suceava, also staffed primarily with Ukrainian refugees. The teams in both cities were highly motivated and went the extra mile to solve the individual problems of 1,625 refugees struggling to connect to the critical resources they needed. These teams played a pivotal role for refugees, reaching over 135,000 individuals on Telegram with important updates on resources and information they needed.

AMURTEL also organized several very successful social cohesion events designed to promote greater friendship and understanding between Romanians and Ukrainians that reached 1,996 people in total. One of the events included a heart-warming exchange of traditional Christmas Carols from both cultures organized in Bucharest with about 100 participants.



THANK YOU FOR INVESTING IN A BEAUTIFUL NEW EXTERIOR FOR THE AMURTEL FAMILY HOME

Thanks to so many of you that joined together to invest in renovating the exterior of the house where our 12 children live! It had not been significantly improved since it was built in 1995, so it was an overdue change that has given new life to the house. It took a lot of support to overcome the challenges: the costs exceeded the initial estimated budget mainly due to the unexpectedly high price of wood, but also due to the challenges of finding skilled workers in our rural area. So we are very grateful that in 2022 we were able to complete the renovation with your help and several generous donations already received since 2021 from Kärcher Home & Garden Romania and Leroy Merlin. Now the children have a safer, warmer and stronger home for years to come!





WE STARTED THE "SCHOOL IN THE ORCHARD" PROJECT TOGETHER WITH AUCHAN ROMANIA AND THE MĂRȚIȘOR COMMUNITY ORCHARD

"School in the Orchard - working with Nature!" is an educational and practical initiative dedicated to **HEALTHY AND ACCESSIBLE FOOD THAT BUILDS SOCIAL BONDING**, implemented by the Mărțișor Community Orchard in partnership with AMURTEL Romania and Auchan RETAIL Romania.

The project will run until the end of 2023 and will build a bridge between 2 communities: urban Bucharest (in particular the community of Livada Comunitară Mărțișor in sector 4) and rural Buzăul (in particular the community of the Buzău River valley, Poieni - Pănătău), combining practical, educational and personal transformation activities for a harmonious individual living in sustainable and resilient communities.

Also, throughout its duration, the project involves regeneration activities (already started in 2022) of the orchards located in the space of the music house Casa Memoriele Mărțișor București and the vegetable farm Grădina Bio Amurtel Poieni Buzău.

This new holistic approach is necessary in the context of the challenges we are facing at all levels: personal, ecological, educational, social, economic.

Through the project, we offer a pleasant learning environment, through experiences close to nature, embedded in the philosophy of permaculture: we reduce waste and carbon footprint, we know and honour biodiversity, we weave healthy social bonds and make the transition from passive consumers to proactive citizens who create abundance, find flexible solutions and are open to lifelong learning for a better life and world.



AMURTEL SUPPORTED UKRAINIAN WOMEN TO BRING 1500 TONS OF AID TO UKRAINIAN VILLAGES

At the beginning of the war, a brave group of women decided to set up their own logistics operation at the Siret border to ensure the flow of donated supplies from Romania and abroad to heavily affected villages in Ukraine. AMURTEL supported them thanks to a flash grant from **Americares** and support from **Amici Nel Mondo** in Italy. This providing forklift rental, office supplies and volunteer support. During the project period, 1,500 tons of humanitarian aid were shipped to Ukraine. This civic initiative can be found here: <https://helpukraineromania.org/>

PSYCHOLOGICAL FIRST AID TRAINING IN ROMANIA AND UKRAINE

AMURTEL Romania's emergency psychologist Melinda, together with her very popular assistant Oscar, our iconic giant monkey, provided emergency psychological care to over 600 refugees who crossed the Siret border between March and May 2022, funded by CARE-SERA-FONPC.

In June, with funding from Americares, Melinda shifted her focus to Ukraine, where she strengthened the capacity of local psychologists in Ukraine to better cope with the large influx of trauma cases arising from war and displacement.



MELINDA TRAINED 157 MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN UKRAINE

AMURTEL Romania, thanks to funding from Americares and the vision, courage and dedication of our emergency psychologist Melinda Endrefy, has trained 157 mental health professionals in Ukraine to better cope with the massive pressures on the mental health system caused by war trauma.

It was a surprise and an honour when Melinda received an award on International Volunteer Day from the Chernivtsi City Council and the State Emergency Service of Ukraine in recognition of her efforts to conduct training in such difficult circumstances.



SUPPORT FOR NOWKOLO CHILDREN'S CAMP

AMURTEL Romania provided mentoring and a small grant to a newly established NGO in Chernivtsi, Ukraine to help them set up programmes for internally displaced children. They successfully led camps for 135 IDP children, using yoga based techniques they learned in a training with Didi.



TRAINING "HUMANITARIAN TOOLBOX" IN BRAȘOV

This "Humanitarian Toolbox" training organised by AMURTEL Romania in partnership with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), CATTIA Centre, CARE France and Reaching Out Romania was designed to provide those involved in refugee counselling in Ukraine with practical tools that improve quality to international standards.



CHARITY SHOW IN BRAȘOV

Organised by the CATTIA Centre and supported by AMURTEL in partnership with NRC.

Charity show with dance and vocal moments in support of Ukraine under the slogan "Help stop the war". This performance was staged by a choreographer from Ukraine and the performers were children.





THE UKRAINIAN WOMEN'S FAIR AT THE MALVA CENTRE IN BUCHAREST

Ukrainian artisans and cooks gathered in November with the support of AMURTEL and NRC at the Ukrainian fair of traditional food, crafts and friendship, at Manasia Hub, Bucharest. The event was organised in partnership with the Malva Centre, a self-organised centre that a group of inspired Ukrainian mothers created to support other mothers and create a space for childcare, socialising and learning new skills.

CULTURAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN UKRAINIANS AND ROMANIANS: HARVEST FESTIVAL

Young children and their parents from Ukraine and Romania gathered together in November at the Rasarit Kindergarten in Bucharest to share crafts, food, dance and songs in honour of the autumn harvest.

Ukrainian children and parents came from the Malva Centre. This social cohesion event was part of the NRC program.





THANKS FOR BRINGING THE CHILDREN TO THE SEASIDE AGAIN

Your involvement and desire to bring joy to the children of the AMURTEL Family, brought them to the seaside for a memorable holiday that they loved!

And perhaps most importantly, Bogdan, the newest member of the AMURTEL Family, who joined us at the end of 2021, saw the sea for the first time!

LIFE LESSONS FROM AN OUTWARD BOUND ADVENTURE

In August, the children ventured with Didi and our long-term partners from Outward Bound Romania into the wilderness of the Carpathian Mountains.

This trip creates lifelong memories, builds character and a set of valuable skills such as problem solving, cooperation, taking responsibility and overcoming challenges. This experience is a life-changing one for our vulnerable children who need confidence and motivation to thrive.





FIRST PLAY DAY AT THE AMURTEL FAMILY AFTER THE PANDEMIC

In September, we had the joy of organising our first offline Play Day since the pandemic started. We were joined by our supporters from Romania and abroad for a day full of activities with the children in Pănătău. Thank you all for coming!

THE CHILDREN OF THE AMURTEL FAMILY MET SPONSORS AT CLUB DAIMON IN BUCURESTI

In December, our friends from the **Rotary Club** organized an event at the Daimon Club in Bucharest, with the aim of supporting the AMURTEL Family and to give the opportunity to those of you already involved in the project and potential new supporters to meet the children.

At the event, the children sang Christmas carols and shared a video that expressed in their own words what they remembered most in the past year.





WE ENDED THE YEAR UNITING OVER 200 VOICES OF ROMANIANS AND UKRAINIANS IN THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

În the week before Christmas, the Auditorium of the University of Music Bucharest hosted a concert of Romanian and Ukrainian carols. The event was organized by AMURTEL Romania, with the support of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and Artexim, the institution in charge of the popular Enescu Festival.

Around 100 people of all ages, Romanians and Ukrainians, attended the free performance. The hall was provided by the University of Music, and the two choirs and two pianists were called and assembled after dozens of announcements on social media or man-to-man.

Not just a typical concert, but an opportunity to bring two communities together at a difficult time

This was not a typical concert, but rather an opportunity for all who joined in to sing together to participate in a sing-a-long. This event was intended to be a beautiful way to experience and enjoy the unity and solidarity of two nations that have come even closer together during this trying time. It was also a way for Romania to welcome Ukrainians and other foreigners to our country and culture while appreciating the cultural heritage they brought with them.

HOW YOUR DONATIONS WERE UTILIZED IN 2022

INCOME	euro	EXPENSES	euro
Total donations from organizations	121.590	Total Expenditure on Social Programmes	285.366
CORNELIA FISCHER HILFSFONDS Panatau CHF	60.004	Familia AMURTEL children's home	195.492
AMURTEL Organisation	6.535	Fountain of Hope After School Center	37.631
AmurTEL USA	26.145	Vistara Social Apartment and House	1.348
Other International Donor Organizations	26.603	AMURTEL Bio Garden	28.488
Romanian Donor Organizations	2.303	Orchard School - Foundation Auchan Romania	22.407
Total from Individual Donors	47.556	Total Administrative Costs	63.894
Total State Subsidies	42.061	Total Expenditure on Ukrainian Refugees Response	274.456
Children allowances	29.767	MHPSS - Emergency Psychological Support (Siret Border and CATTIA Refugees Center Brasov) - CARE-SERA-FONPC	17.745
Redirection of Income Taxes	2.156	Americares Foundation Flashgrant and MHPSS in Ukraine	30.771
Other subsidies	10.139	Help-Ukraine Romania (Libera Associazione Volontaria Amicii Nel Mondo)	4.000
Foundation Auchan Romania	22.407	NowKola IDP camp in Chernivsti (AMURTEL USA)	12.896
Other Corporate Sponsors	24.858	Site Management Support and Community Based Response (NRC)	183.028
Other subsidies (Food Bank)	17.354	MHPSS General	26.016
AMURTEL Bio Garden Income Generation	15.006	Total expenses	623.716
Other organizational income generation	58.920	Unspent allocated funds NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL (NRC)	60.127
Total Grants for Ukrainian Refugee Response	235.598	Unspent allocated funds Foundation Auchan Romania	27.020
CARE-FONPC-SERA Romania Foundation	17.745		
Americares Foundation	30.771		
Libera Associazione Volontaria Amicii Nel Mondo	4.000		
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	183.028		
Other donations for Ukraine Refugee Response	38.858		
TOTAL INCOME	624.208		

THANK YOU!



Federatia Organizatiilor Neguvernamentale Pentru Copii
România



CORNELIA FISCHER HILFSFONDS
CHANCEN FÜR KINDER & JUGENDLICHE

