



## Romania



### Government focal points

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Pathfinding since November 2016



**Government  
Contacts and  
References**

### Recent developments: National Action Plans, Laws, and Budget

**2004**

*The Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of the Child prohibited all forms of physical punishment of children.*

**2011**

*Romania approved Governmental Decision No. 49 regarding framework methodology for prevention and multidisciplinary intervention in cases of violence against children and family violence.*

**2014  
2015**

*The National Strategy for the Protection of the Rights of the Child 2014-2020 and The National Strategy for Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction 2015-2020 were launched.*

**2016**

*A law was adopted on the Rights of the Child which prohibits violence against children, but was not interpreted as prohibiting all corporal punishment.*

**2017**

*In March, Romania launched the national campaign against emotional violence against children with the Global Partnership and UNICEF Romania, in the presence of the Prime Minister, key ministries and civil society.*

**2018**

*The National Roadmap was finalized based on the findings of a self-assessment of the situation of violence against children by the VAC subcommittee.*

**2019**

*A law was adopted on the Rights of the Child which prohibits violence against children, but was not interpreted as prohibiting all corporal punishment.*



**Multi-stakeholder  
Collaboration and  
Consultation  
with Children**

- The National Strategy for the Protection of the Rights of the Child 2014-2020 was developed through multi-stakeholder consultations, including with civil society organizations and children. A working group on ending violence against children has been set up and met regularly since 2017. In February 2019, the group established strengthening of the social services workforce capacity as its annual priority. This builds upon the November 2018 Regional Conference organized by UNICEF ECARO and NAPRCA on social service workforce development. The high-level event brought together 200 government officials, academics, civil society representatives and other stakeholders from across Europe and Central Asia to further understand and plan for a competent social service workforce as a key pillar of social protection and child protection systems, including effective prevention and response to violence.
- As part of the Romanian Presidency of the European Council for the first six months of 2019, the NAPRCA, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, EuroChild, the Romanian Federation of Children NGOs (FONPC), UNICEF Romania along with other Civil Society Organizations and children themselves have agreed to collaborate and promote Children's Rights, particularly Children's Participation, as a key priority of the Romanian Presidency of the European Council.
- Plan Z, a multi-agency international pilot program that addresses violence against children was piloted in Romania between 2017-2018 by Terre des hommes Romania (TdH Romania), Save the Children Romania and World Vision Romania. The program organized child-led innovation labs to address and solve issues related to violence against children such as bullying in schools with three solutions designed by children: ChildLine in Your School, Forum Theater and Role Play.

### Investments from the End Violence Fund

- Romania is one of the ten priority countries of the regional project supported by the Fund and led by the **Council of Europe** to strengthen legislative frameworks and national capacity to prevent and respond to online child sexual abuse and exploitation, including awareness-raising activities on child online safety.



## Data Collection and Situation Analysis

- Data on VAC at national level is accessible from a variety of sources and studies. Primary data on VAC is provided by the National Statistics Institute of Romania, while sectorial statistics are available for specific data on child protection (abuse/neglect investigated by social services), education (violence in schools), law enforcement and justice (crimes against children). Romania has previously conducted three Health Behavior in School-Aged Children (HBSC) surveys, including in 2006, 2010, and 2014. A second national study on the abuse and neglect of children in 2013 provided further national data on VAC and in the same year, with the support from WHO, the first adverse childhood experiences survey was conducted. UNICEF Romania provided an in-depth look on school violence with the 2005 and 2012 studies.
- The situation of children in state care was systematically analyzed in a 2016 study conducted jointly by NAPRCRA, UNICEF Romania and the World Bank as baseline for an evidence-based investment in the development of alternative family type care and in the expansion of preventive services for families at risk in local communities.
- World Vision Romania (WVR) conducted a national survey in 2016 on general population's attitudes towards VAC, the first segmentation study on this issue in Romania. In 2018, Save the Children Romania (SCR) published the qualitative analysis on the identification and referral of abuse cases of children under 11.
- UNICEF Romania piloted AURORA, an intelligent on-line application assuring unitary methodology for identification of vulnerabilities for all children. FONPC is currently working on further developing a set of minimum data on child abuse and neglect to be used for a coordinated answer of the public agencies. Coordination of these initiatives with NAPRCRA in improving data collection at national level is ongoing as part of the EVAC working group activity.



## Collective Action and INSPIRE

- Romania is one of the few countries that has banned the institutionalization of children less than three years of age. In 2019 this age increased to seven years old in order to support the de-institutionalization policy and transition to community-based services. Investment in the development of preventive local services was and will continue to be a priority, as well as training provision for the workforce on closing old style institutions, strengthening the foster care network and effective prevention and response to violence, poverty, discrimination and social exclusion in vulnerable families. NGOs are sustaining this approach with interventions at the grassroots level: in 2018, 7,600 parents were included in non-violent parental education sessions by WVR, SCR informed around 41,500 children on bullying in schools and cyberbullying, while families at risk in five counties received support in violence prevention from Tdh Romania and SOS Kinderdorf Romania. Moreover, during 2014-2018, UNICEF Romania ensured parental education for 12,000 parents (out of which 24 per cent were fathers).
- Furthermore, in December 2018, with support from GPVAC and UNICEF Romania, NAPRCRA shared its national experience in the Edinburgh Winter School and learned about adaptation and measurement of INSPIRE-related interventions. Within the same GPVAC framework, in January 2019, Tdh Romania took part in the preparation of trainers promoting INSPIRE strategies and will organize dissemination sessions for professionals and EVAC working group members in April. A compendium of the topics on preventing and combating VAC from the [ChildHub e-learning platform](#), implemented in Romania by Tdh Romania, will be made available for the social services workforce. Throughout 2018 UNICEF Romania continued to provide technical assistance and support for Romania as a Pathfinding Country.

### Reporting into CRCs and SDGs



Reported to the CRC in 2013.  
Underwent UPR in 2017.



Reported to the High-Level Political Forum in 2018.



Will undergo next UPR in 2020,  
with May 2018 reporting deadline.



## Opportunities for 2019 where End Violence will engage

### Build political will/ global movement

1. *Under the leadership of the National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of the Child and Adoption, continue the implementation of the community integrated approach of the child protection system reform which has EVAC at its heart*

### Resource mobilization

2. *Use European Union Presidency to showcase what Romania has accomplished in promoting a European-wide consultation mechanism with children.*

### Equip practitioners

3. *Develop evidence-based services to respond to child maltreatment, such as the Barnahus model piloted by SCR.*
4. *Train frontline workers in the identification of and response to children who have suffered physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and neglect.*