ROMANIA

Annual 2025 Overview

12 January 2026

Key figures

199,538 refugees obtained temporary protection in Romania (as of 30 November 2025).

9 UNHCR partners operating in 15 counties implementing a wide range of programmes and activities (reduced to 6 partners operating in 7 counties by the end of 2025).

46,580 refugees supported with 190,295 core relief items (CRIs).

11,857 refugees provided with protection counselling services and legal support.

5,903 refugees supported with livelihood and employment services.

43 Refugee Response Plan partners including 33 national NGOs (including 4 refugee-led organizations) under the 2025 RRP appeal.

UNHCR's Community Centre at RomExpo in Bucharest, Romania.

Operational Context

The full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation on 24 February 2022 triggered one of the fastest-growing displacement and humanitarian crises on record, forcing millions of people into internal displacement and across borders in search of safety. Since the onset of the crisis, a total of **199,538 refugees have been granted temporary protection in Romania as of 30 November 2025**, according to data from the Government of Romania.

UNHCR, together with other UN agencies and non-governmental organizations, supports the Government of Romania's response through inter-agency coordination of the **Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) 2025–2026**, in line with the **Refugee Coordination Model**. Implemented under government leadership, the RRP sets out strategic priorities and activities aimed at ensuring the protection, inclusion and long-term solutions for refugees from Ukraine who are beneficiaries of temporary protection in Romania.

UNHCR in Romania addresses the needs of refugees through its **Country Office in Bucharest** and a field presence at the **Emergency Transit Centre (ETC) for refugees in Timișoara**. In 2025, however, UNHCR closed its two field offices in Constanța and Suceava and reduced its staffing levels in Romania by nearly 50 per cent due to severe funding constraints. These closures and staffing reductions paired with a significant reduction of its overall budget, have significantly affected UNHCR's operational capacity, including its ability to maintain a sustained presence in northern and eastern parts of the country. Consequently, direct support to refugee communities has been reduced, especially in the areas related to inclusion and self-reliance, while engagement with local authorities and partners to address complex protection and integration challenges has become more limited. Despite these constraints, UNHCR remains committed to supporting refugees through continued coordination and engagement from its presence in Bucharest.

In 2025, **UNHCR implemented projects through nine national and international partner NGOs across 15 counties in Romania**, later reduced to six partners operating in seven counties as a result of funding limitations. A list of these partner organizations and the thematic areas covered under their partnerships with UNHCR is provided below. UNHCR Romania is deeply appreciative of their high-quality work and steadfast commitment to supporting refugees. Furthermore, UNHCR has supported 12 refugee and community led organizations in 9 counties to support their grassroot activities both with the refugee and host communities.

Response

Protection

Regarding the Ukraine refugee situation, UNHCR works with authorities, partners and refugees to promote the protection of refugees while enhancing their inclusion into the national systems in accordance with the EU Temporary Protection Directive (TPD), as transposed in Romania. During 2025, UNHCR supported the protection of those forcibly displaced by providing legal assistance and information provision for their inclusion into the Romanian social protection schemes, socio-economic inclusion and self-reliance, provision or referral to services to persons with specific needs and as well as assistance and interventions for specific groups such as children, survivors of different forms of violence against women and children, as well as persons with disabilities, older people, LGBTIQ+ persons and the Roma community. Throughout the year, UNHCR and partners engaged in advocacy with a view to further advancing available assistance to particularly vulnerable refugees and their access to social protection benefits.

Some key results of UNHCR's Protection response in 2025, as follows:

- 11,857 refugees were provided with information, legal assistance and counselling in person or via hotlines in matters related to integration, access to services and exercise of rights. A further 2,720 refugees were refugees counselled in-person at border-crossing, transit, and information points.
- 2,240 people who benefited from specialized programmes assisting survivors of different forms of violence against women and children.
- Over 1,900 children assisted through specialized Child Protection programmes.
- More than 800 refugees from Ukraine provided with Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and psychological first aid.
- 21,406 refugees have been directly reached through UNHCR Romania's social media platforms, including 11,406 subscribers to UNHCR's Telegram channel which provides useful information to refugees , with posts often re-posted and reaching up to 18,000 people UNHCR Romania's Help website was visited 66,222 times in 2025.

UNHCR leads the Inter-Agency Protection Working Group to help more than 50 organizations coordinate their protection response and avoid duplication of effort. Under this umbrella, UNHCR co-chairs, together with UNICEF and the National Agency for the Protection of Children and Adoption, the Child Protection Sub-Working Group (with a total of 30 members), as well as the Gender Base Violence (GBV) Sub-Working Group, where 20 GBV actors meet to coordinate their responses.

UNHCR, together with partners have provided support to children with specific needs in Brașov, Bucharest, Constanța, Galați, Iași, and Suceava, supporting children with case management and speech therapy, establishing child-friendly spaces, ensuring psychosocial support to children, and enhancing capacity of various stakeholders. Aiming at combatting different forms of violence against women and children, UNHCR has promoted prevention and response interventions, working with community members. UNHCR, jointly with UNICEF and partners, also advocated on access to education for refugee children from Ukraine to ensure that no child is left behind.

Socio-Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

Together with the National Employment Agency (ANOFM) and partner NGOs, UNHCR is working to promote the socio-economic inclusion and self-reliance of refugees through language courses, employment counselling, employers engagement and by organizing job fairs and workshops. During 2025, UNHCR supported refugees from Ukraine with the following livelihood services:

Ukrainian refugees participate in a job fair hosted at UNHCR's Community Centre at RomExpo in Bucharest.

- 962 refugees were supported with Romanian language courses; This activity was discontinued due to funding constrains in March 2025.
- 2,320 refugees were supported with employment assistance/coaching/counselling;
- 27,403 refugees enrolled in employment services or other similar platforms with ANOFM and partners;
- 10 refugee businesses located in six counties were chosen through a competitive selection process to each receive grants worth RON 30,000 (USD 6,900) following the conclusion of the 2025 entrepreneurship training programme for refugees delivered in partnership with its partner. The scheme included support with the registration process for new entrepreneurs, and tailored counselling, mentoring, and business monitoring activities until December 2025.

Contingency Planning and Preparedness

In 2025, and beyond the joint review of planning scenarios, UNHCR strengthened national emergency preparedness by transferring its contingency stock of core relief items (CRIs) to the Ministry of Interior's Department for Emergency Situations (DSU). A total of 208,542 items of its contingency stock to address emergencies, valued at US$ 6.65 million, were donated to DSU. This transfer ensured that essential relief items are pre-positioned under national authorities, enabling a faster and more effective response to emergencies and reinforcing the government's capacity to assist affected populations.

DSU and UNHCR personnel taking part in the SEISM 2025 national earthquake response exercise in June 2025.

UNHCR participates in weekly coordination meetings led by DSU. UNHCR also actively participated in a series of regional conferences of five regional conferences on civil society in emergency management organized jointly by DSU and IOM. UNHCR and DSU, together with the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations (IGSU), through the county level inspectorates for emergency situations (ISU), and the Centre for the Comparative Study of Migration (CSCM) developed a site assessment tool to gain insight into the operational status and needs of collective centres, and to support data-driven decision making for sustainable future longer-term accommodation solutions

In June, under the leadership of DSU, UNHCR participated in SEISM 2025, a national earthquake response exercise designed to test Romania's readiness for a large-scale seismic event. The exercise assessed coordination mechanisms among national responders, the speed of resource mobilisation, and the effectiveness of operational procedures in a high-pressure scenario. This engagement reinforced UNHCR's role in supporting inclusive emergency responses, ensuring that the needs of displaced persons, refugees and other at-risk groups are integrated into national disaster preparedness and response efforts.

Basic Needs

Throughout the year, UNHCR worked closely with local authorities and civil society partners to distribute core relief items (CRIs), such as hygiene kits and bedding, to address the basic needs of the most vulnerable refugees, particularly new arrivals. These distributions helped preserve dignity and promote the well-being of refugees and, where relevant, members of host communities. In 2025, UNHCR distributed more than 190,000 CRIs to approximately 35,200 refugees and 11,400 vulnerable Romanians.

Cash assistance

From January to March 2025, UNHCR provided cash assistance to nearly 750 refugees from Ukraine through its winter cash programme. The programme targeted newly arrived vulnerable families who had been in

Romania for at least 30 days. Eligible households received RON 720 (USD 163) per family member to help cover urgent needs during the cold season.

In April 2025, UNHCR relaunched its Cash for Persons with Specific Needs programme. However, due to funding constrains only around 300 of the most vulnerable refugees from Ukraine were supported, each receiving two payments of RON 630 (USD 145) per person, despite significantly higher levels of identified needs.

Communication with Communities

UNHCR promotes a two-way communication with refugees in Romania through multiple channels, including a dedicated hotline, a Telegram channel, protection counselling desks and complaint mechanisms. These platforms provide tailored information on available services and assistance, while also allowing refugees, asylum seekers and displaced persons to raise queries and concerns. The hotline ensures direct access to crucial up-to-date information. The official Telegram channel, followed by over 11,400 individuals, offers real-time updates and resources, making it the preferred communication tool for the refugee community. Additionally, UNHCR shares information via social media and its dedicated HELP page. As part of this interaction, UNHCR ran a participatory assessment exercise, engaging with 293 refugees from Ukraine through 32 focus group discussions held throughout Romania. The exercise is a structured, inclusive consultation process that involves direct engagement with refugees to ensure that their voices inform UNHCR's protection strategies, services, and solutions, while promoting dignity, inclusion, and accountability. In addition, UNHCR seeks to receive direct feedback on the ongoing services and adjust its interventions.

Working with Partners

In 2025, UNHCR implemented a wide range of activities through 9 partnerships operating across 15 counties in Romania. Partner organizations included AidRom (cash-based interventions, information provision and support at the ETC in Timisoara), CNRR (access to documentation and child protection), CSCM (research and data analysis), Estuar (community engagement and participation, and mental health and psychosocial support), FONSS (Community Engagement and Participation, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, Child Protection, Cash Based Intervention), PATRIR (community engagement and participation), Project Voyager (Jobs4Ukraine – self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods), Dr. Max Foundation - formerly Sensiblu Foundation (support to survivors of different forms of violence against women and children), and World Vision Romania (self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods, and child protection). Together, these partners delivered a comprehensive range of protection interventions that were backed by needs assessments, data collection and information management. During the year, three partnerships were completely discontinued due to funding constraints, while the remaining six were significantly reduced, resulting in diminished operational coverage from 15 to 7 counties. These cuts have limited the availability of critical protection and inclusion services, leaving vulnerable refugees with fewer opportunities to access support, safeguard their rights and rebuild their lives in Romania.

UNHCR also works closely with 12 community and refugee-led organizations (RLOs) operating across 9 counties in Romania, recognising their essential role in delivering community-based support and amplifying refugee voices. These partner organizations included ACUM (Mediaș), ADPARE (Bucharest), the Arabic Cultural Centre (Sibiu), Asociația Ucrainenilor Activi (Rădăuți), Bewise (Bucharest), Centrul de Vis (Arad), EDNAE (Suceava), Help Ukrainians (Galați), MALVA (Bucharest), PHONEO (Cluj/Sibiu), Putere Unitate Speranță (Galați/Brăila) and Solidaritate ROUA (Tulcea). Community and refugee-led organizations play a vital role in strengthening the response by drawing on lived experience, cultural knowledge and trust within refugee communities. They help identify emerging needs, provide tailored support, and facilitate access to services, while also fostering self-reliance, leadership and social cohesion among refugees and between refugee and host communities.

Inter-Agency Coordination

To ensure effective coordination among humanitarian partners implementing the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP), UNHCR, in collaboration with national authorities, established an inter-agency coordination platform in 2022. In 2025, the platform comprised 42 appealing partners. The coordination structure includes seven sectoral working groups, three sub-working groups, three task forces and one network, led by national and international organizations. The sector working groups meet regularly, ensuring a flexible and effective coordination mechanism. UNHCR and partners work closely with authorities to ensure

complementarity and synergy between government priorities and the inter-agency coordination structure of the RRP, in support of national policies for refugees from Ukraine. In line with the localisation strategic direction of the RRP for 2025–2026, the number of appealing partners increased from 42 in 2025 (including 33 national NGOs) to 43 in 2026 (including 34 national NGOs).

To further strengthen local coordination and links with national coordination platforms, eight local coordination networks have been maintained at county level, while coordination at municipal level continues to be reinforced. In addition, as part of efforts to ensure a sustainable response, engagement with private sector actors is being advanced as a key element of a whole-of-society approach.

On 28 November, the inter-agency coordination platform hosted the second edition of Building Bridges – a donor meet-up on social cohesion and inclusion. The event aimed to support the 42 RRP partner organizations in their work with Romanian host communities welcoming refugees, as well as with refugees from Ukraine. It was co-hosted by the Embassies of Germany, Japan and Switzerland, the European Commission Representation in Romania, and UNHCR. The event brought together around 120 participants from government, embassies, international organizations, the private sector and civil society. It provided RRP partners with an opportunity to present their priorities for host communities and refugees, and to engage with embassies and private sector actors with a view to mobilising increased funding and support. The discussions underscored the critical importance of continued support to refugees and NGOs in Romania, particularly during a challenging financial year for the humanitarian and development sector.

External Engagement

In 2025, UNHCR Romania led and supported a wide range of high-profile public events, engaging national authorities, donors and civil society to strengthen visibility, coordination and support for the refugee response. On 21 February, the Inter-Agency Coordination Platform in Romania, led by UNHCR, together with the Chancellery of the Prime Minister and the Department for Emergency Situations (DSU), marked three years of the refugee response in Romania and officially launched the 2025–2026 Refugee Response Plan (RRP) at an event held at the Odeon Theatre in Bucharest. UNHCR marked World Refugee Day on 20 June with the re-inauguration of its Community Centre at RomExpo, following extensive renovations aimed at better responding to the evolving needs of refugees. In addition, UNHCR and RRP partners expressed solidarity with refugees worldwide through a series of public events celebrating social cohesion, multiculturalism and community resilience. Held in Bucharest over the summer under the banner Together in the Park, and in coordination with the NGO Green Revolution, these events fostered dialogue and inclusion between refugees and host communities. In June, UNHCR also participated in the 23rd edition of the Civil Society Gala, Romania's annual celebration of civic engagement. UNHCR partner Project Voyager received first prize in the social and economic development category for its Jobs4Ukraine initiative, while UNHCR awarded the Hope Away from Home prize to Save the Children Romania for its project supporting childcare as a pathway to labour market integration for Ukrainian families.

Information Management and Needs Assessments

During 2025, UNHCR strengthened the localisation and sustainability of information management activities in Romania by expanding partnerships with local actors, including national authorities, UN agencies, NGOs, and academia. Key assessments, such as the Socio-Economic Insight Survey - which offers a unique perspective on the situation of refugees in Romania - were conducted with local partners to enhance collaboration and avoid duplication.

In addition, on 27 November, UNHCR organized the fourth edition of the Information Management meeting – RefData Meet-Up. This edition was hosted and organized in partnership with the Romanian National Institute of Statistics (NIS), and its main theme was the launch of the ReMAP Network. The ReMAP Network is an initiative that brings together academia, local and national authorities, and organizations – including non-governmental, international, and UN agencies – working on refugee and migration issues in Romania. UNHCR also reaffirmed its collaboration with academic institutions to enhance access to higher education for refugees. To support students in 2025, UNHCR established five scholarships for refugees and Romanians studying in the country.

UNHCR's Community Centre for refugees at RomExpo and regional community centres

Since 2022, in support of the national response, UNHCR has worked with UN agencies, national authorities and partners to provide free services to refugees at the RomExpo Community Centre in Bucharest, as well as at regional community centres in Arad, Bucharest, Brașov, Constanța, Mediaș, Sibiu and Suceava. These centres operate under the concept of one-stop shops, enabling refugees from Ukraine to access essential services and support in a single location, while also offering child- and family-friendly spaces. They provide venues for national NGOs and refugee-led organizations to deliver occasional activities, including training, awareness-raising events and other community-focused initiatives. During the year, however, funding constraints led to the closure of the community centres in Brașov and Sibiu, while services in Arad were significantly reduced. These cuts have limited refugees' access to critical information, protection services and community support, increasing the risk of isolation and leaving the most vulnerable with fewer pathways to assistance and integration.

Refugees participate in an art workshop at UNHCR's Community Centre at RomExpo in Bucharest.

Throughout the year, UNHCR's Community Centre at RomExpo in Bucharest served as a key platform for community-based protection and assistance, offering a safe, inclusive environment for Ukrainian refugees in Romania. Through collaboration with 11 partners, including government authorities, NGOs and UN agencies, the centre delivered a comprehensive range of services, such as protection counselling, legal information and referrals, language learning, skills development, and structured activities for children and young people. These efforts contributed to well-being, self-reliance and social cohesion. Importantly, UNHCR's Community Centre in RomExpo hosts the General Inspectorate for Immigration, supported by the EU Agency for Asylum (EUAA), which registers refugees from Ukraine for temporary protection status. It has become the country's main registration point, with some 57,441 refugees registered there since the end of March 2022. In close coordination with partners, volunteers and local stakeholders, the centre adapted flexibly to evolving needs and periods of increased demand, ensuring the continuity and quality of services. Feedback from community members confirmed the centre's role as a trusted entry point for information and support, reinforcing UNHCR's commitment to protection, inclusion and durable solutions.

Needs and plans for 2026

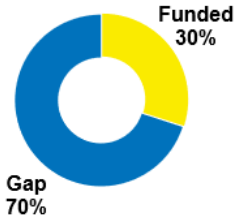
In 2026, UNHCR will continue to strengthen and sustain the government-led and humanitarian response to ensure the protection and inclusion of refugees from Ukraine. UNHCR's total funding requirement in Romania amounts to **USD 23.4 million**. The key priorities for 2026 are outlined below:

- Coordinate UNHCR's contribution to the refugee response in close partnership with national authorities, under government leadership. Continue coordinating the broader humanitarian response in support of Romania's efforts through the Refugee Response Plan for 2025–2026.
- Enhance the protection support for the most vulnerable refugees and promote social cohesion with host communities in Romania.
- Promote socio-economic inclusion through employment counselling and entrepreneurship support.
- Strengthen community-based protection, with a particular focus on the prevention of and response to violence against women and children, as well as child protection risks.
- Advance localisation of the refugee response by strengthening the capacity and role of Romanian actors in the delivery of services and assistance.
- Facilitate medium- to long-term protection and inclusion of refugees into Romanian society, while maintaining advocacy efforts to ensure the full enjoyment of refugees' rights.
- Continue close cooperation with the General Inspectorate for Immigration and the General Inspectorate of Border Police, particularly in preparation for the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.
- Collaborate with civil society, media and academic institutions to raise awareness and foster a supportive public attitude towards refugees.

- Enhance outreach and information provision to refugee communities, including through refugee-led organizations and both in-person and online channels.
- Maintain contingency preparedness in close coordination with the Government.

UNHCR Romania Funding Situation
As of 30 November 2025

$39.0 million
UNHCR's funding requirements 2025



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