Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

March 2026

INTER-AGENCY NEWSLETTER

REFUGEE COORDINATION FORUM | ROMANIA

Supporting inclusion, resilience and durable solutions for refugees in Romania.

$48.6M

2026 RRP APPEAL

43
APPEALING PARTNERS

203,218
Ukrainian Temporary Protection holders in Romania (as of 28 February 2026)

© UNHCR | Refugees and community members participate in a creative "Bird of Peace" workshop organized with AIDRom, marking four years since the beginning of the war in Ukraine and promoting solidarity, reflection and hope

APPEAL BY SECTOR
(USD)

Protection	$16.5M
Livelihoods & Socio Economic Inclusion	$16.2M
Basic Needs	$15.7M
Public Health & MHPSS	$10.1M
Education	$9.3M
Child Protection	$8.7M
Gender-based Violence	$6.3M

2026 RESPONSE SNAPSHOT
(as of March 2026)

10%	Funding level
$5.0M	Total received funds* vs. 48.6M appeal
$43.6M	Funding gap of appeal
41	Reportig partners out of 43 appealling partners
32	Partners reporting no new funding received this year for their refugee related projects
3,816	People reached* vs. 144,000 target**

*Data reflects information reported by partners as of the end of Q1 2026.
**Targets reflect planned needs. However, due to funding shortfalls and related implementation constraints, most of these targets are not expected to be achieved.

KEY PRIORITIES

Protection
Ensuring access to safety, legal protection, rights, and essential services for refugees and vulnerable groups.

Inclusion & Integration
Supporting refugees' access to education, employment, healthcare, and social services to foster self-reliance and long-term inclusion.

Social Cohesion
Strengthening trust, solidarity, and meaningful connections between refugees and host communities across Romania.

Localization
Empowering local authorities, civil society, and refugee-led organizations to lead sustainable, community-based responses.

INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE

© WHO Romania/Mihai Eremia

Operational Context

Within the framework of the Refugee Response Plan (RRP), UN agencies and their NGO partners maintain active coordination with national and local authorities through the Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) and its sectoral working groups. These joint structures are fundamental to delivering a unified, efficient, and all-encompassing response to refugee needs throughout Romania.

Since 24 February 2022, over 5.1 million Ukrainians have fled to countries across Europe.

According to data published by the Romanian General Inspectorate for Immigration (GII) as of 28 February 2026, a total of 205,805 Ukrainian nationals and third country nationals were granted temporary protection status in Romania.

This status that entitles holders to access healthcare services, the education system, and employment opportunities.

The response continues to prioritize protection, inclusion, and access to essential services for refugees, while promoting durable solutions, social cohesion, and greater national and local ownership of the response.

Funding Snapshot – Q1 2026

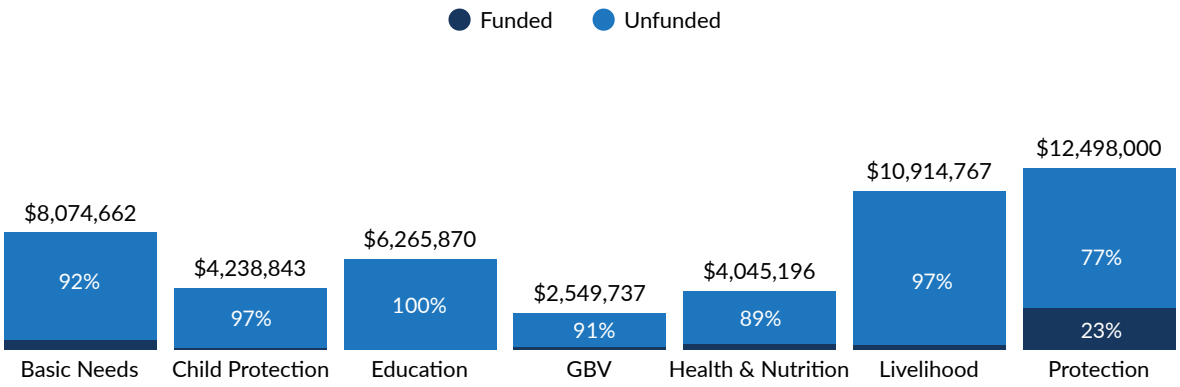
As of the end of Q1 2026, RRP partners in Romania reported USD 5 million in funding received against a revised appeal of USD 48.6 million, leaving significant funding gaps across all sectors.

Protection and Livelihoods remain the largest sectors by financial requirements, with funding gaps exceeding USD 10 million each, while Basic Needs, Education, Health & Nutrition, Child Protection, and GBV activities also continue to face substantial resource shortfalls. Despite limited new funding, 14 partners reported ongoing activities supported through available resources, while others continue delivering assistance through carried-over funding, complementary support from other RRP partners, and voluntary efforts. At the same time, 23 partners reported limited or no operational activities due to the absence of dedicated funding, highlighting the growing impact of funding constraints on the overall response capacity

Planning for a sustainable transition

On 6 March 2026, RRP partners and sector leads gathered at UN House for the first Refugee Response Plan partners meeting of the year, held in the context of an important transition period for the RRP. The meeting brought together humanitarian and civil society actors to reflect on four years of refugee response in Romania, building on the momentum of the February event marking the RRP anniversary and the 25/26 Mid-Cycle Review. A highlight of the session was the online participation of Ms. Diana Punga, Presidential Adviser for Relations with Civil Society, whose presence opened a broader conversation on how the coordination structures, mechanisms, and expertise developed through the Ukraine refugee response could contribute to the potential development of a national civil society coordination platform, as envisioned by the Presidential Administration. Partners engaged in structured discussions around remaining needs for refugees and host communities, lessons learned and good practices worth consolidating, essential coordination mechanisms for the protection of vulnerable groups, and emerging gaps in cooperation with public authorities. Sector leads shared inputs from their respective areas, and the meeting also included an open exchange focused on future directions, as well as a dedicated segment on 2026 RRP reporting requirements.

FUNDING BY SECTOR



Spotlight story - RRP partner

Sibiu Community Foundation

Building language skills.
Building futures.

©Sibiu Community Foundation

Sibiu Community Foundation (SCF) supports the integration of Ukrainian refugees through practical, community-based initiatives, with a strong focus on Romanian language learning as a key enabler of independence and employment.

54 Adult language learners succesfully completed the course

75 Children supported through Romanian language courses

A0-A2 Progression from beginners to a functional level

Up to 100 Adult beneficiaries in 2026 through programme expansion

PROJECT OVERVIEW

In 2025, with the support of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), SCF implemented a six-month Romanian language programme for adult refugees in Sibiu. The course targeted beginners (A0-A1) and aimed to help participants reach a functional A2 level. Out of 60 available places, 54 participants successfully completed the course, demonstrating strong engagement and commitment.

CHILDREN'S LANGUAGE COURSES

Through the EU staff Fund for a Fair and Sustainable Future, managed by the King Baudouin Foundation, SCF has also implemented Romanian language courses for children, supporting 75 young participants in adapting to their new environment through interactive and practical learning methods. The programme focused not only on language acquisition but also on building confidence, social connections, and a sense of belonging, helping children integrate more smoothly into local schools and community life.

BEYOND LANGUAGE LEARNING

Beyond language acquisition, the foundation's initiatives contribute to broader social cohesion. Through complementary activities under the LOCAL programme, SCF also promotes awareness of the rights and needs of refugees and migrants, fostering understanding within the host community.

OLENA'S STORY (34, from Kharkiv)

"Before the course, I could only say a few basic words. Now I can speak with my employer, understand everyday situations, and feel much more confident living here. It changed my daily life."

LOOKING AHEAD

Due to high demand, the programme for adults is expanding in 2026 to reach up to 100 beneficiaries, reflecting both the growing motivation of refugees to integrate and the continued need for accessible, high-quality support.

THE LANGUAGE LEARNING JOURNEY

Romanian classes → Everyday communication → Confidence → Employment & school integration → Community belonging

fundația comunitară Sibiu

Learn more Sibiu Community Foundation

PROTECTION

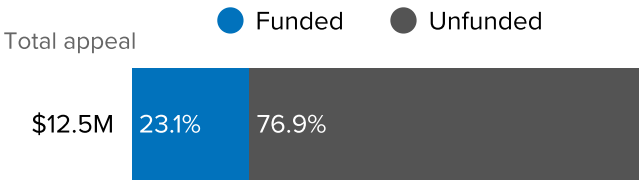
Supporting Refugees Through Information, Access, and Advocacy

© UNHCR/Mihai Eremia

24
PARTNERS appealing

35,200
PEOPLE TARGETED in 2026

$12.5M
FINANCIAL REQUEST in 2026



WORKING GROUP CO-CHAIRS

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

Consiliul Național Român Pentru Refugiați

KEY PARTNERS

JRS Jesuit Refugee Service | Guvernul României – Agenția Națională pentru Egalitatea de Șanse între Femei și Bărbați | Terre des hommes – Helping children worldwide. | Salvați Copiii – Save the Children Romania | unicef for every child | Crucea Roșie Română | Novapolis – Centrul de Analiză și Inițiative pentru Dezvoltare | Migrant Integration Center Brasov – Empowering Inclusion

Full list of sectoral appealing partner: ADPARE | City Makers | East European Institute for Reproductive Health (EEIRH) | EDNAE | FONSS | IOM | JRS Romania | Malva | Metropolitan Agency for Durable Development Brasov | Migrant Integration Centre Brasov | Necuvinte | Novapolis | PATRIR | Plan International | RomaJust | Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR) | Save the Children Romania | Dr.Max Foundation | Sibiu Community Foundation | Terre des Hommes | Tineri Pentru Tineri | UNHCR | UNICEF | World Vision Romania

Strengthening Protection Advocacy and Cross-Border Knowledge Exchange

The second Protection Working Group meeting of the year took place on 31 March, co-chaired by CNRR, with 27 members in attendance. The meeting featured contributions from two lawyers working with NGOs in Hungary and the Czech Republic respectively, offering valuable cross-border perspectives on protection advocacy in diverse operational contexts. The representative from Hungary presented insights into the work of the Hungarian Helsinki Committee in a constrained environment, including its participation in the Monitoring Committee established under Article 38 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, which facilitates structured dialogue between public authorities and civil society on EU funding priorities in areas such as migration and asylum. The Czech Republic presentation provided an overview of the current situation regarding access to rights for temporary protection holders, with a particular focus on legislative provisions enabling applications for permanent residence — an example that will inform future advocacy efforts in Romania. UNHCR also shared key findings from the 2025 participatory assessment conducted with forcibly displaced persons from Ukraine, highlighting recent trends and challenges observed in the country.

Facilitating Access to Rights, Services, and Social Integration

Throughout March, CNRR assisted 569 forcibly displaced and stateless persons (FDSPs) in accessing rights and public services, including 505 temporary protection holders, 53 international protection holders, and 11 asylum seekers. A total of 148 Ukrainian FDSPs received guidance on temporary protection permits, covering procedures for obtaining, updating, or renouncing TP status, as well as general information on rights and obligations. CNRR also provided 35 accompaniments to medical and socio-economic institutions, which proved particularly important in mediating with healthcare providers in cases where clinic staff were reluctant to provide services to temporary protection holders due to a lack of legal clarity on eligibility.

Throughout March, UNHCR continued to run its weekly Romanian Speaking Club for Adults as part of a volunteer initiative among UNHCR colleagues in Romania. Sessions focused spontaneous conversation practice designed to strengthen situational Romanian and everyday communication skills. The sessions provided a friendly and supportive environment for participants to build confidence through peer interaction, with participants consistently engaging actively and expressing appreciation for the format.

PROTECTION

On 10 March, UNHCR organized an online session titled "Success Stories: Admission to University," bringing together 52 participants from across Romania, including Brașov, Cluj-Napoca, Timișoara, Brăila, and Constanța. Facilitated by members of the Ukrainian refugee community, the session featured first-hand accounts of studying at Romanian universities alongside practical guidance on admission procedures, study programmes, and available opportunities for Ukrainian students. Participants received information on choosing fields of study, accessing reliable university information, and understanding the differences between admission pathways for Romanian students and Ukrainian refugees. The session included an active Q&A segment and was also attended by several participants joining from Ukraine who expressed interest in future admission opportunities. The event effectively addressed key information gaps and highlighted higher education in Romania as an accessible and tangible opportunity for the refugee community.

Engaging the National Immigration Strategy and Advancing Systemic Advocacy

Following the publication of the draft National Immigration Strategy 2026–2030 by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, CNRR led a coordination meeting with sector partners to consolidate and submit a unified joint letter. UNHCR, CNRR, and other partners also provided recommendations for the corresponding Action Plan, with UNHCR's comments focused on strengthening a rights-based, coordinated, and EU-aligned framework, with emphasis on protection for vulnerable groups and improved integration support.

It is encouraging to note that the draft Action Plan incorporates several initiatives for which CNRR has actively advocated in recent years. These include provisions ensuring the legal representation of unaccompanied children seeking asylum or holding international protection across all relevant child protection sectors — using CNRR's proposed formulation — as well as the introduction of the possibility of challenging both asylum and return decisions before the same court. The latter addresses a significant procedural burden that has existed since the 2023 amendments to the Asylum Law, under which asylum seekers have been required to navigate two separate judicial proceedings simultaneously before different courts.

Identified Gaps

Significant barriers remain in accessing the Minimum Income for Inclusion (VMI), particularly in Constanța following the conclusion of IOM's support in the area. The absence of free interpretation services for VMI applications represents a critical gap, as local social services require applicants to provide their own interpreters, placing the cost of private interpretation on the population the benefit is designed to support. While CNRR continues to provide assistance, capacity limitations mean that not all interpretation needs can be covered, potentially leading to delays in access to this essential benefit.

Inconsistent awareness among local authorities regarding the eligibility of international protection holders for social services — including shelters and housing support — continues to generate misinformation, inappropriate referrals, and delays in accessing assistance. CNRR has repeatedly encountered instances where DGASPC representatives are unaware that international protection holders are eligible for night shelters, social housing, or rental allowances.

Delays in visa appointment scheduling at the Romanian Embassy in Damascus are exceeding the validity of approval documents, creating procedural bottlenecks and increasing the risk of family reunification cases lapsing before they can be resolved. Additionally, beneficiaries returned to Romania under the Dublin procedure continue to face protection gaps stemming from their exclusion from integration programmes, resulting in limited access to accommodation and basic assistance and an elevated risk of homelessness and destitution.

CHILD PROTECTION

Protecting and Supporting Ukrainian Refugee Children in Romania

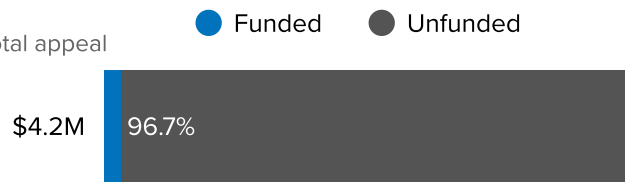
© SCOP Timișoara | SERA/Photographer Livia Mateias

9
PARTNERS appealing

5,000
PEOPLE TARGETED in 2026

$4.2M
FINANCIAL REQUEST in 2026

Total appeal



WORKING GROUP CO-CHAIRS

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

unicef for every child

MINISTERUL MUNCII, FAMILIEI, TINERETULUI ȘI SOLIDARITĂȚII SOCIALE
Autoritatea Națională pentru Protecția Drepturilor Copilului și Adopție

KEY PARTNERS

JRS Jesuit Refugee Service

Salvați Copiii Save the Children Romania

World Vision

Terre des hommes Helping children worldwide.

Crucea Roșie Română

Novapolis

Full list of sectoral appealing partner: City Makers | Sibiu Community Foundation | Necuvinte | Plan International | Save the Children Romania | Terre des Hommes | UNHCR | UNICEF | World Vision Romania

Empowering Refugee Youth Through Participatory and Creative Engagement

On 10 March, UNHCR and World Vision co-led a Child Advisory Board session at the World Vision office in Bucharest, bringing together 11 youth participants aged 12–16. The first part of the session focused on team-building, self-reflection, and exploring participants' communication strengths through interactive activities designed to encourage collaboration and personal expression. In the second part, children joined an introductory session with UNHCR centred on a community-organizing exercise aimed at continuing their engagement at the Romexpo Community Centre. These activities support children in building confidence, strengthening social skills, and feeling more empowered to actively participate in community life, with the Romexpo Community Centre serving as a safe and supportive space where youth can strengthen connections and contribute to meaningful community initiatives.

Fostering Creativity, Social Cohesion, and Inclusion Through Child-Friendly Activities

On 12 and 19 March, UNHCR organized two creative sessions at the RomExpo Community Centre for children aged 6–14, both facilitated by Maria De Ribas, a Ukrainian refugee with a background in early childhood education. The first session engaged 9 children in air-dry clay modelling, promoting creativity and positive interaction in a supportive environment. The group included Ukrainian participants and one Romanian child, with peer translation enabling full and equal participation. The second session, attended by 11 children, combined educational and creative components — including a short quiz on the history of clay and knowledge about Romania — followed by hands-on clay modelling that encouraged creativity, imagination, and the development of fine motor skills. Across both sessions, peer support and informal communication strengthened social cohesion and fostered inclusion among children from different backgrounds, reinforcing the value of mixed-group, child-friendly programming as a vehicle for integration.

Delivering Child Protection Interventions Across Multiple Locations

In March, Save the Children reached 81 vulnerable children through child protection interventions across Bucharest, Baia Mare, Galați, and Suceava. Activities included the provision of information and counselling services on accessing children's rights and benefits, as well as case management support through the development of individual intervention plans and the delivery of targeted social support. Parenting sessions, including those based on the Safe Families methodology, were organized to prevent child abuse and neglect and strengthen protective family environments.

World Vision Romania reached approximately 30 refugee children and parents through child protection interventions in Bucharest and Constanța during the same period.

Given the project closure context, activities focused on the responsible handover and safe closure of ongoing cases, while ensuring continued access to protection and social services throughout the transition phase. Case management supported vulnerable children and families through individualized counselling, documentation assistance, interpretation, and accompaniment, facilitating access to social entitlements, healthcare, and protection services — including disability reassessment procedures, enrolment with family doctors, and coordination with relevant authorities. Coordinated referrals and structured case handovers were prioritized to ensure continuity of care beyond project closure. MHPSS support was provided to strengthen coping mechanisms and emotional wellbeing, child participation was maintained through Child Advisory Board mentorship sessions, and informational brochures for children and parents were finalized and disseminated to support access to key services.

Teams also managed complex protection cases, including bullying incidents, while ensuring safe case closure and clear transition pathways for all beneficiaries.

Identified Gaps

Continued support is needed for disability reassessment procedures, as Ukrainian refugee families continue to navigate complex and resource-intensive administrative processes with increasingly limited access to specialized assistance following the contraction of partner services. Language barriers remain a persistent structural challenge, constraining access to social protection, healthcare, and education services, and underscoring the ongoing need for dedicated interpretation support and cross-institutional coordination to ensure that the most vulnerable families are not left without the guidance they require.

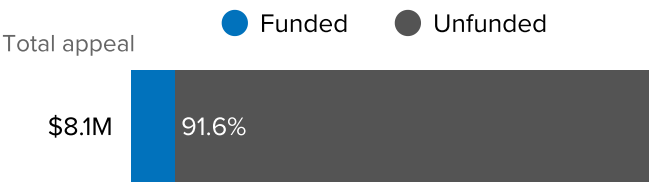
BASIC NEEDS

Supporting Refugees through Integrated Services, Emergency Aid, and Local Coordination

13
PARTNERS appealing

23,400
PEOPLE TARGETED in 2026

$8.1M
FINANCIAL REQUEST in 2026



WORKING GROUP CO-CHAIRS

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

Salvați Copiii Save the Children Romania

CRUCEA ROȘIE ROMÂNĂ

KEY PARTNERS

JRS JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE

EDNAE

fundația comunitară Sibiu

AIDROM ASOCIATIA ECUMENICA A BISERICILOR DIN ROMANIA

Full list of sectoral appealing partner: ADPARE | AIDRom | ASSOC | EDNAE | FONSS | Habitat for Humanity | IOM | JRS Romania | Novapolis | RomaJust | SERA | UNHCR

Sustaining Essential Relief Distributions and Expanding Basic Needs Coverage

Throughout March 2026, UNHCR maintained its commitment to meeting the essential needs of forcibly displaced persons through continued distributions of non-food items (NFIs) in partnership with the General Directorate of Social Assistance of Bucharest Municipality (DGASMB).

Essential items including mattresses and undergarments were distributed to 90 people in Bucharest County, reflecting the ongoing dedication to preserving the dignity of displaced populations. As of the end of March 2026, UNHCR has cumulatively distributed more than 171,479 NFIs to approximately 47,125 Ukrainian refugees, including vulnerable third country nationals and members of the host community across Romania.

BASIC NEEDS

Piloting Multipurpose Cash Assistance as a Flexible and Effective Response Modality

During the reporting period, the Romanian Red Cross implemented a multipurpose cash assistance pilot in Constanța and Bucharest as part of its Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) preparedness efforts under the Basic Needs and Cash sector. A total of 191 individuals from 102 families were assisted, with EUR 30,489.32 distributed through cash and digital delivery channels. The intervention served a dual purpose — addressing immediate basic needs while simultaneously testing operational systems and delivery arrangements for future cash-based responses. At the time of reporting, the intervention has entered the monitoring and evaluation phase, with Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) results expected to be shared by the end of April 2026.

Strengthening Refugees' Understanding of Rental Rights and Housing Navigation

On 25 March, UNHCR and the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Romania jointly organized an information session for refugees on the rights and obligations of landlords and tenants. The session outlined the legal framework governing rental agreements and provided practical guidance to help refugees better understand and navigate private rental arrangements. Ukrainian refugees shared their experiences and received on-the-spot advice from legal experts. Participants also raised challenges encountered in the private rental market, including occasional reluctance from landlords to rent to refugees. UNHCR continues to monitor these developments and to engage with partners to support fair and inclusive access to housing for the refugee population.

Reinforcing Inter-Agency Coordination to Address Rising Accommodation Pressures

During the reporting period, strong inter-agency coordination among RRP partners proved instrumental in addressing the needs of highly vulnerable families facing accommodation insecurity. The rising demand for accommodation — driven by new arrivals to Romania and an increasing number of evictions from previously government-supported centres — has reinforced the importance of sustained and close collaboration among partners working jointly to identify both emergency and longer-term solutions. While accommodation options remain limited, UNHCR and partners continue to work together to localize services, ensuring access to basic needs through remaining voucher programmes and in-kind food and non-food item distributions, while fostering self-reliance through referrals to national social protection schemes and livelihood opportunities.

Identified gaps

UNHCR and partners continue to identify cases requiring accommodation, food, or cash support for vulnerable individuals, with demand driven primarily by new arrivals and a growing number of evictions from accommodation centres previously supported under government programmes. The need for emergency accommodation assistance remains heightened, with the most significant impact falling on vulnerable groups including persons with disabilities and families with children, for whom the contraction of available support options presents acute and compounding risks.

The Romanian Red Cross's multipurpose cash assistance pilot confirmed that cash remains a highly relevant and effective modality for addressing beneficiaries' basic needs, offering the flexibility for households to prioritize their most urgent expenses. The pilot also highlighted a strong participant preference for cash pick-up in local currency, perceived as more accessible and practical — particularly for individuals with limited access to banking services — pointing to the importance of designing future cash interventions around the practical realities and preferences of the target population.

EDUCATION

Supporting the Inclusion of Refugee and Vulnerable Children Across Romania

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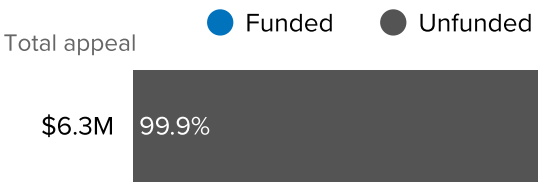
24
PARTNERS appealing

3,300
PEOPLE TARGETED in 2026

$6.3M
FINANCIAL REQUEST in 2026

Total appeal



WORKING GROUP CO-CHAIRS

unicef for every child

JRS JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE

KEY PARTNERS

MINISTERUL EDUCAȚIEI ȘI CERCETĂRII

Salvați Copiii Save the Children Romania

AIDROM Asociația Ecumenica a Bisericilor din Romania

HELP Ukrainians

Migrant Integration Center Brasov Empowering Inclusion

Full list of sectoral appealing partner: ADPARE | AIDRom | AMI | Association Malva | City Makers | Civic Radauti Association | EDNAE | Sibiu Community Foundation | Help Ukrainians | IOM | JRS Romania | National Youth Foundation | Novapolis | PATRIR | Plan International | REF Romania | RomaJust | SECS | SERA | Terre des Hommes | UNICEF | Youth for Youth | YMCA

Sustaining Education Support and Inclusion Services for Ukrainian Refugee Children

Despite a reduction in the number of RRP partners actively operating in the education sector during the reporting period, comprehensive support continued to be delivered to Ukrainian children and their families to facilitate meaningful integration into the Romanian education system. Interventions spanned remedial lessons, extracurricular activities, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), Romanian language courses, and social cohesion initiatives, ensuring a holistic approach to educational inclusion across multiple locations.

UNICEF Romania maintained active engagement with national, county, and local authorities and NGO partners throughout the period, working in close collaboration with Step-by-Step, HOLTIS, and JRS Romania to sustain education support services in cities with significant refugee populations, including Bucharest, Brașov, Cluj, Constanța, Maramureș, Tulcea, and Vâlcea County. A central component of this support is the operation of 14 early education centres — functioning as Play, Learning, and Parenting Hubs (PLPHs) — run in partnership with the Step-by-Step Center. These hubs delivered early education and care services at community level, providing young children with structured learning environments tailored to their developmental needs. Beyond direct service delivery, Step-by-Step offered continuous technical assistance, pedagogical guidance, and context-specific consultations to educational personnel, strengthening staff capacity, improving service quality, and ensuring consistent implementation across all hub locations. These efforts remain firmly aligned with UNICEF's broader strategy to promote inclusive education, build teacher capacity, and support the long-term integration of refugee children into the national education system.

Facilitating School Enrollment, Study Recognition, and Language Integration at the RomEXPO Education Desk

At the RomEXPO Education Desk, coordinated efforts with the Bucharest School Inspectorate (ISMB) focused on supporting the educational inclusion of Ukrainian refugee children and their families by addressing a wide range of administrative and procedural barriers. In January alone, the desk handled 48 registration requests and 173 total education-related inquiries, reflecting the sustained demand for guidance and hands-on assistance among the refugee population.

Specialized support was provided to parents for the preparation and submission of study recognition and equivalency files, enabling Ukrainian children to transition from audient status to full enrolled student status within the Romanian system. Families received tailored guidance on required documentation, procedural timelines, and applicable regulations.

EDUCATION

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Assistance was also extended to facilitate the placement and enrollment of Ukrainian children as auditors in nurseries, kindergartens, and schools across Bucharest, with staff actively bridging communication between families and educational institutions. In addition, support was provided for the preparation and submission of application files for Romanian language proficiency assessments — a critical step for school integration and academic progression. Continuous communication with parents was maintained throughout the month, delivering timely and accurate information on school holidays and academic calendars, access to scholarships and social support measures, and the rights and obligations of children within the Romanian education system.

Expanding Reach Through School Mediators and Direct Educational Support

The Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), operating under the UNICEF-funded project, provided support to a total of 381 children during the reporting period, including 33 children at the RomEXPO Playground. A pool of 10 school mediators delivered assistance across Bucharest, where 126 children and 83 adults were supported, and Constanța, where 145 children and 94 adults received services. These mediators responded to requests from parents of children enrolled in Romanian schools — both as audients and registered pupils — as well as from school management and inspectorates, working in close cooperation with the local School Inspectorates in both cities.

School mediators provided daily in-class assistance to children at the primary education level, including dedicated support for children with disabilities. The most frequently raised concerns from parents centred on enrollment and registration processes, early childhood education options, and assistance with completing and submitting documentation to School Inspectorates. Children, meanwhile, expressed demand for leisure and organized activities, academic support including homework assistance and in-class language help, and access to language learning courses and certification pathways.

Under the AMIF-funded project, JRS extended its reach further by implementing a broad range of activities across the Constanța and Galați Regional Centres, with coverage extending to Tulcea and Brăila. These included counselling services on access to education, enrollment procedures, social benefits, and language courses, as well as direct educational activities for more than 471 migrant children and 617 adults. Four teachers and one volunteer were engaged in organizing daily Romanian language courses across various formats. JRS also continued to provide structured learning activities for 60 preschoolers at its Bucharest venue.

Under a separate ESF-funded project, JRS organized additional educational activities for more than 200 children and adults in Bucharest, further extending the breadth of education support available to the refugee and migrant population in the capital.

Broadening Educational Support Through Save the Children Romania

Save the Children Romania continued to deliver educational activities for refugees from Ukraine and other vulnerable groups — including preschoolers, school-age children, and adolescents — across schools and educational centres during the reporting period. Interventions aimed to ensure access to education, support academic progress, and facilitate the inclusion of children from diverse cultural backgrounds. In March, SCR provided educational support to 57 children across Bucharest and Galați, delivering afterschool and remedial activities for 31 children and Romanian language classes for 50 children, while also actively facilitating the enrollment of refugee children into the Romanian educational system to strengthen pathways to long-term inclusion.

Identified Gaps

Notwithstanding the breadth of support delivered, significant challenges persist in achieving full integration of refugee children into the Romanian education system. The absence of reliable, disaggregated data on enrolled and attending children remains a foundational gap, limiting the ability to identify those requiring remedial support, language instruction, Latin script literacy development, or specialized services for children with disabilities — an issue that has prompted renewed discussions with the Ministry of Education. Schools enrolling or willing to integrate migrant children continue to lack adequate institutional support, including specialized teacher training on multiculturality and inclusive pedagogy, while the school mediator network remains insufficient at the national level, with expansion to cities such as Timișoara identified as a priority. After-school and extracurricular programmes for children with employed parents remain scarce, and targeted youth initiatives require further development, including through closer cooperation with the Union of Ukrainians in Romania and the Embassy. The regulatory framework governing intensive language courses, proficiency assessments, and final examinations for migrant children has yet to ensure parity with national students, and the potential establishment of regional Romanian language learning and testing centres has been identified as a meaningful step toward addressing this systemic gap.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Building Safety and Resilience for Refugee Women and Girls in Romania

14 PARTNERS appealing

28,000 PEOPLE TARGETED in 2026

$2.5M FINANCIAL REQUEST in 2026

Total appeal — Funded / Unfunded

$2.3M — 90.7%

WORKING GROUP CO-CHAIRS

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

Agenția Națională pentru Egalitatea de Șanse între Femei și Bărbați

KEY PARTNERS

UNFPA

unicef for every child

Full list of sectoral appealing partner: AIDRom | Association Malva | City Makers | Dr. Max Foundation | EDNAE | EEIRH | Sibiu Community Foundation | Necuvinte |Plan International | Tineri pentru Tineri| UNFPA | UNHCR | UNICEF

Celebrating International Women's Day Through Community Engagement and Psychosocial Support

On 3 March, UNHCR organized a creative workshop as part of its Women's Club activities at the Romexpo Community Centre in Bucharest, dedicated to girls and women on the occasion of International Women's Day. A delegation from Switzerland attended the session and engaged in an open dialogue with participants about their journeys to safety in Romania. Discussions focused on the risks that girls and women face, as well as the GBV services available to refugees in Romania, providing both an informative and emotionally supportive space for participants to share their experiences.

On 4 March, UNHCR, with the support of the ROUA Center in Constanța, organized community activities to celebrate International Women's Day and promote women's mental health and psychosocial wellbeing. The event brought together diverse community structures, including the Women's Club, elderly participants, and community mobilizers, across two complementary sessions. The first, a Metaphorical Cards and Fairy Tale Therapy session, was facilitated by Irina Artsybasheva, a clinical psychologist and Women's Club member, and gathered 13 participants. The second, a Mărțișor Making Workshop, was attended by 12 participants who expressed strong appreciation for the opportunity to socialize, exchange information, and find inspiration and motivation. Across both sessions, UNHCR promoted creativity, social cohesion, and emotional well-being among community members.

Strengthening GBV Coordination and Sector Planning for 2026

On 4 March, UNHCR and co-chair ANES convened the GBV Sub-Working Group, bringing together key partners to review plans for 2026 and establish coordination priorities for the sector. The meeting opened with Plan International presenting its Programmatic Impact Report for Romania, providing a valuable evidence base for the discussions that followed. Partners outlined their planned activities for the year, acknowledging an ongoing decline in available funding and a corresponding scale-down of programmes across the sector. Discussions centred on enhancing coordination and referral mechanisms, addressing existing service gaps, and strengthening institutional responses to GBV affecting refugee and host community women and girls.

Empowering Refugee Women Through Peer Dialogue and Skills Development

On 24 March, the Women's Club hosted a discussion session at the RomExpo Community Centre focused on the key challenges women face today and practical solutions that can empower them in both personal and professional spheres. The session featured inspiring stories of successful women from Ukraine and Romania, highlighting their resilience, achievements, and meaningful contributions as sources of motivation for participants seeking personal growth and confidence.

The event was conducted in English, offering attendees an additional opportunity to practice conversational language skills in a warm, inclusive, and supportive environment.

Identified Gaps

Access to information remains uneven across emerging networks of refugee women, underscoring the need for sustained and targeted informational outreach to ensure that women are aware of available services, rights, and support mechanisms. Community awareness of GBV-related stigma requires further strengthening, as stigma continues to serve as a barrier to disclosure, help-seeking, and full participation in available support programmes, pointing to the need for ongoing, community-led awareness efforts alongside direct service delivery.

LIVELIHOODS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION

Promoting Refugee Inclusion Through Education, Employment, and Recognition of Qualifications

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25 PARTNERS appealing

13,300 PEOPLE TARGETED in 2026

$10.9M FINANCIAL REQUEST in 2026

Total appeal

Funded | Unfunded

$10.9M — 97%

WORKING GROUP CO-CHAIRS

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

World Vision

KEY PARTNERS

IOM UN MIGRATION

JOBS FOR UKRAINE

Salvați Copiii Save the Children Romania

Migrant Integration Center Brasov

fundația comunitară Sibiu

NOVAPOLIS

Commit GLOBAL

Full list of sectoral appealing partner: ADDJB | ADPARE | Association Malva | Ateliere fara frontiere | City Makers | Civic Radauti Association | Commit Global | Sibiu Community Foundation | Help Ukrainians | IOM | JRS Romania | Metropolitan Agency for Durable Development Brasov | Migrant Integration Centre Brasov | National Youth Foundation | Plan International | Project Voyager | REF Romania | Salvati Copiii | UNHCR | UNICEF | World Vision Romanian | YMCA

Delivering Integrated Language, Counselling, and Orientation Services Across Multiple Locations

At IOM's Migrant Resource Centres, 46 adults received information and counselling services, 11 adults enrolled in Romanian language classes, and 74 individuals participated in socio-cultural and civic orientation activities during March 2026. These services contributed to improved access to labour market information, legal rights awareness, and social integration opportunities for the refugee population.

Save the Children supported 52 Ukrainian refugees through Romanian language classes and reached 28 individuals through group information sessions on access to employment opportunities and public services. Their integrated approach — combining language training, childcare, and education support — helped reduce structural barriers to employment and enabled greater labour market participation among caregivers, addressing one of the most persistent obstacles to economic inclusion for refugee families.

The Sibiu Community Foundation (SCF), through the LOCAL programme supported by the EBRD, launched a new cycle of Romanian language courses with an expanded capacity of 100 beneficiaries, targeting beginner levels (A0–A1) and supporting progression toward A2. SCF also piloted a Romanian Speaking Club with 18 participants in March, providing a low-barrier, community-based platform for language practice and social interaction that strengthened confidence and employability. In parallel, SCF continued to deliver information and advisory support, including updated guidance materials and online consultations, improving refugees' access to services and enabling more informed decision-making regarding employment and integration pathways.

LIVELIHOODS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION

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Strengthening Private Sector Engagement and Access to Skilled Employment

Jobs for Ukraine advanced private sector engagement through a strategic partnership with Chornomorka, an international seafood restaurant group entering the Romanian market. Following a recruitment event in Bucharest that attracted 49 applications and 36 participants, 13 Ukrainian refugees were successfully hired, with employment formalized in March. The organization also delivered a webinar titled "How to Find High-Skilled Jobs in Romania" on 13 March, reaching 25 participants out of 61 registered, with discussions focused on access to skilled employment and employer expectations. Jobs for Ukraine further participated in the "Angajatori de Top" job fair on 27–28 March in Bucharest, establishing connections with 31 companies and engaging approximately 30 refugees, with 18 beneficiaries receiving individualized guidance and follow-up support including concrete job opportunities. Discussions were also initiated with The Social Incubator regarding potential future collaboration on employment support, signalling a broadening of the partnership ecosystem around livelihoods programming.

Building Social Cohesion and Pathways to Self-Reliance Through Community-Based Initiatives

Complementary community-based initiatives implemented by Institutul Bucovina in Suceava — including art-therapy and practical skills-building activities — contributed to strengthening social cohesion, emotional wellbeing, and practical skills development among refugee participants. Notably, these activities also demonstrated tangible pathways for transforming creative skills into income-generating opportunities, offering a model for how community-based programming can be linked to longer-term self-reliance and economic empowerment.

Identified Gaps

Despite continued efforts across partners, demand for Romanian language learning significantly exceeds available capacity, particularly at beginner levels. In Sibiu alone, over 200 active applications for language courses were recorded in March 2026, illustrating the scale of unmet need and the persistent access gaps that remain even where provision has been expanded. Opportunities for continued language learning beyond A2 level remain limited across locations, creating risks of stagnation in language acquisition and reducing prospects for sustainable labour market integration among refugees who have progressed beyond initial levels.

Refugees continue to require accessible, up-to-date, and individualized guidance on administrative procedures, employment pathways, and available services. While information provision has improved, gaps in consistent, clear, and tailored support across locations persist, leaving many without the specific guidance needed to navigate complex systems independently. Structural barriers — including childcare responsibilities, limited recognition of foreign qualifications, and language constraints — continue to affect refugees' ability to secure stable and appropriately skilled employment and remain inadequately addressed by current programming. Finally, while community-based activities make a meaningful contribution to resilience and skills development, the linkages between such initiatives and formal livelihood opportunities remain underdeveloped, limiting their potential to translate into sustainable income generation and longer-term economic inclusion.

Spotlight story - RRP partner

PLAN INTERNATIONAL

Empowering adolescents.
Building confidence. Creating futures.

© Plan International

Adolescents supported

Romanian and Ukrainian adolescents engaged in safe spaces and life skills programmes.

PALS facilitators trained

DEIS facilitators trained on the Parenting and Adolescent Life Skills **(PALS)** programme.

Inclusive engagement

Programmes delivered for both Romanian and Ukrainian adolescents through DEIS centres.

SRHR & life skills

Dedicated module on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) for adolescents and caregivers.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

In 2024, a Child Protection in Emergencies (CPiE) Specialist from Plan International delivered training on its flagship Parenting and Adolescent Life Skills (PALS) programme to facilitators from the DEIS Association in Baia Mare. Following the training, the facilitators began implementing PALS sessions with both Romanian and Ukrainian parents and adolescents.

BUILDING CONFIDENCE THROUGH SAFE SPACES

A DEIS child protection supervisor shared a powerful example of the programme's impact through the story of a 10-year-old Ukrainian boy. When he first joined, he was shy and fearful, having experienced bullying. Over time, with consistent support from facilitators, he became more confident, built friendships, and now actively participates in all activities.

SRHR MODULE: OPEN, SAFE, AGE-APPROPRIATE DIALOGUE

The PALS programme also includes a dedicated module on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), equipping facilitators with practical tools and guidance to address sensitive but critical topics with both adolescents and their caregivers. The module supports open, age-appropriate discussions on issues such as relationships, consent, gender norms, and gender-based violence, helping to foster safer, more informed environments for young people.

YOUTH-LED INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Between September 2023 and July 2025, Plan International Romania supported DEIS in implementing programmes focused on youth-led, inclusive engagement and emotional support for both Romanian and Ukrainian adolescents. These efforts contributed to strengthening confidence, social cohesion, and resilience among children and young people. DEIS community centres have served both Ukrainian refugees and host communities by providing psychosocial support, educational and integration services, and opportunities for community engagement.

A STORY OF TRANSFORMATION

> "When he first joined, he was shy and fearful, having experienced bullying. Over time, with consistent support from facilitators, he became more confident, built friendships, and now actively participates in all activities.
>
> - DEIS Child Protection Supervisor (story of a 10-year-old Ukrainian boy)

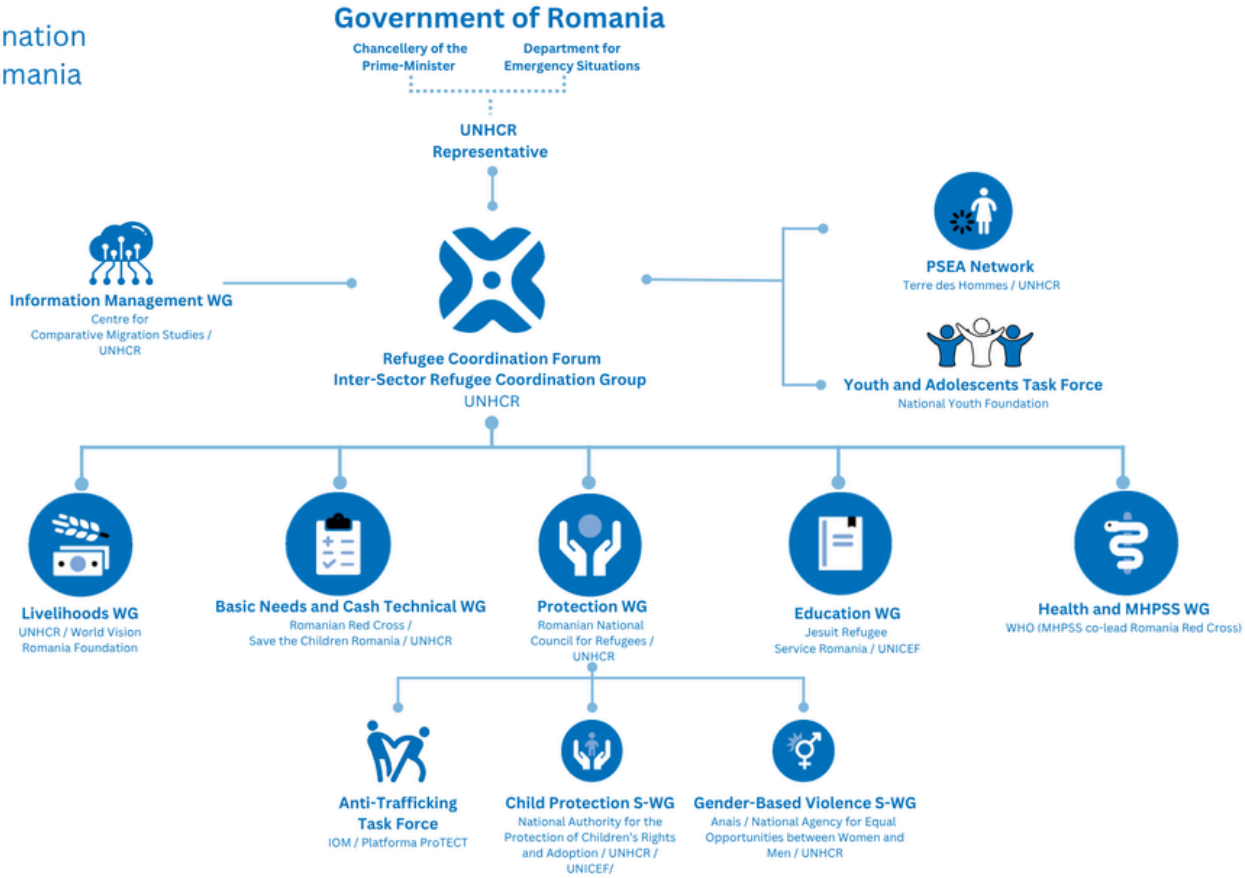
THE VALUE OF PALS TRAINING

> "In Romania, there is growing awareness of the need for SRHR education. The PALS package, which is comprehensive and ready for delivery, is well suited to our context and easy to apply. As professionals working with youth, we have limited opportunities to learn how to address SRHR issues with both young people and their parents.
>
> - DEIS Vice President

Learn more Plan International

Working in partnership

Refugee Coordination Structure in Romania



In 2026, the Inter-Agency platform comprises of the following 43 appealing partners implementing humanitarian activities in Romania for refugees from Ukraine:

ADPARE | ADDJB | AIDRom | Asociația Moașelor Independente | ASSOC | Ateliere Fără Frontiere | City Makers | Civic Rădăuți Association | CNRR | Commit Global | Drumul Vieții | EDNAE | EEIRH | FONSS | Habitat for Humanity | Help Ukrainians | IOM | Jesuit Refugee Service Romania | MALVA | Metropolitan Agency for Durable Development Brașov | Migrant Integration Centre Brașov | National Youth Foundation | Necuvinte | Novapolis | ParentIS | PATRIR | Plan International | Project Voyager | Roma Education Fund | RomaJust | Save the Children Romania | SECS | Sensiblu Foundation | SERA | Sibiu Community Foundation | Terre des Hommes | Tineri pentru Tineri | UNFPA | UNICEF | UNHCR | WHO | World Vision Romania | YMCA Romania

For more information, please contact the Inter-Agency Coordination Unit:

Simina Costea
Assistant Inter-Agency Coordination Officer, Romania
Email: costea@unhcr.org

Ioana Davidescu
Inter-Agency Coordination Assistant, Romania
Email: davidesc@unhcr.org

LINKS:

Regional data portal
Romania Page
Ukraine Situation RRP
Refugee Funding Tracker
Romania Refugee Response Plan - Results