ROMANIA

Weekly Update #187 **16 March 2026**

Key figures

203,684 refugees
obtained temporary protection and refugee status in Romania (as of end January 2026).

47,020 refugees
supported with core relief items in 2025 and 2026.

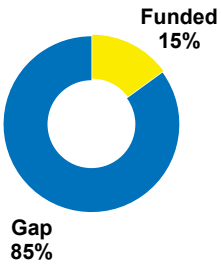
13,882 refugees
provided with protection counselling services and legal support in 2025 and 2026.

5,784 refugees
supported with livelihood and employment services in 2025 and 2026.

"I really appreciated the UNHCR session on university admissions. It covered an important topic and helped us better understand the application process and the opportunities available in Romania. The facilitators explained everything clearly, making the session both interesting and very informative." Nataliia, a refugee from Ukraine living in Romania.

UNHCR Romania Funding Situation

As of 28 February 2026
$23.4 million
UNHCR's funding requirements 2026



Highlights

On 6 March, the Inter-Agency Coordination Unit convened the first Refugee Response Plan (RRP) partners' meeting following the launch of the revised 2026 RRP, attended by Ms. Diana Punga, State Adviser within the Presidential Administration. The meeting brought together approximately 60 participants, including representatives from 40 RRP partner organisations and sector leads. Ms. Punga, presented the Presidency's initiative to map civil society capacities and explore the establishment of a national coordination platform, which could support the gradual transition of the RRP coordination framework. UNHCR highlighted Romania's important role in the regional response and welcoming the Presidency's initiative. The session included sectoral updates and an initial discussion on the future of coordination, with partners underscoring the importance of maintaining robust refugee protection standards throughout the transition.

Response and Advocacy

On 10 March, UNHCR, through its partnership with the University of Bucharest, held an engagement session with around 50 students from the university's master's programme in Social Marketing. The session introduced students to UNHCR's global mandate, its work supporting refugees and displaced people, and the role that communication and public engagement play in building understanding and support for humanitarian action. Students gained practical insights into how international organizations design campaigns that raise awareness, mobilize communities and encourage positive attitudes towards refugees. UNHCR's four partnerships with academic institutions in Romania foster informed dialogue, encourage innovative thinking and help equip the next generation of leaders to support humanitarian values.

On 10 March, UNHCR, through its partnership with the University of Bucharest, held an engagement session with students. *Photo: UNHCR*

On 10 March, UNHCR hosted an online session, "Success Stories: Admission to University," with 52 refugees hosted in Brașov, Brăila, Cluj-Napoca, Constanța, and Timișoara. Facilitated by Ukrainian refugees, the session shared personal experiences of studying at Romanian universities and offered practical guidance on admission procedures, study programmes, and opportunities for Ukrainian students. Participants learned how to choose fields of study, access reliable university information, and understand differences between Romanian and refugee admission processes. An interactive Q&A allowed questions on faculties, programmes, and pathways. Several participants joined from Ukraine, expressing interest in future studies. The session addressed information gaps and reinforced higher education in Romania as an accessible option for Ukrainian refugees.

During the past week, UNHCR organized a series of community-based activities to support refugee participation, skills development and social cohesion. On 10 March, UNHCR and its partner World Vision Romania co-led a Child Advisory Board session with 11 Ukrainian refugee children aged 12–16, combining team building, self-reflection and communication exercises with a community-organizing activity to encourage their engagement, strengthen social skills and participation in community life. On 11 March, a Romanian Speaking Club for was held at the UNHCR Community Centre at RomExpo, providing a supportive space to practice spontaneous speech and build confidence in everyday communication. On 12 March, a creative clay-modelling workshop for Ukrainian and Romanian children aged 6–14, facilitated by a Ukrainian refugee volunteer, encouraged creativity and peer interaction. On 13 March, a filmmaking masterclass introduced participants to visual storytelling and the fundamentals of cinematic composition, bringing community members together around shared interests. These activities help create safe and welcoming spaces where refugees can build confidence, develop new skills and strengthen connections within the community.

UNHCR is grateful to the donors for unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions to the Ukraine situation. UNHCR in Romania is also grateful to donors contributing to its 2025 and 2026 programmes. For more details: Romania Funding Update – 2026