ROMANIA

Weekly Update #195 **11 May 2026**

Key figures

208,164 refugees obtained temporary protection and refugee status in Romania (as of end March 2026).

600 refugees supported with community-based protection activities in 2026.

3,187 refugees provided with protection counselling services and legal support in 2026.

994 refugees supported with livelihood and employment services in 2026.

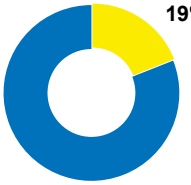
"UNHCR's Q&A sessions with refugees mean a great deal to me because they bring people together and create a space where we can connect, share our experiences, and feel seen, supported, and not forgotten." Svitlana, a 68-year-old refugee from Odesa, Ukraine living in Constanța, Romania.

UNHCR Romania Funding Situation

As of 31 March 2026

$23.4 million

UNHCR's funding requirements 2026



Highlights

On 6 May, UNHCR participated in a round table entitled "The New Architectures of Digital Democracy", organized by the Presidential Administration in the context of Europe Week. The event brought together public institutions, civil society, academia and the technology sector to discuss the impact of artificial intelligence and digital transformation on democratic processes. During the discussions, UNHCR underscored the importance of ensuring that increasingly digital systems and public services remain accessible to vulnerable groups. It also highlighted that the more than 120 million forcibly displaced people worldwide represent one of the fastest-growing populations globally, while remaining among the least represented in democratic and digital spaces.

Response and Advocacy

On 7 May, UNHCR Romania convened an event to validate the findings of the Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS) done in late 2025. The event marked an important expansion of the SEIS scope, incorporating beneficiaries of international protection for the first time (i.e. persons recognised as refugees and others granted complementary forms of protection, while Ukrainian refugees are granted temporary protection), and as such it complements the findings of the SEIS for refugees from Ukraine. This development helps address critical information gaps and contributes to a more inclusive understanding of refugee populations in Romania. The event brought together government institutions, as well as national and international non-governmental organizations, to discuss the SEIS findings and identify future directions for ensuring an evidence-based response for beneficiaries of international protection. Implemented in partnership with the Centre for Comparative Migration Studies (CSCM), the SEIS provides detailed data and analysis to support UNHCR's planning and operational response, to better address the needs of refugees.

On 7 May, UNHCR conducted a field mission to Vâlcea holding meetings with representatives of the local General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC), and Refugee-Led Organisation (RLO) NGO Voluntarii Phoenix, a new UNHCR grant partner. Discussions with DGASPC focused on refugees' access to social protection services and benefits, particularly disability certification, therapy and rehabilitation services for children, and specialized support for adults and children with disabilities. UNHCR's collaboration with local authorities continues to strengthen access to essential services and facilitate referrals for vulnerable refugees. The meeting with Voluntarii Phoenix focused on outreach, community engagement and emerging needs, including access to information, livelihood opportunities and social inclusion. As one of six RLO partners, the organization helps ensure refugee participation in identifying needs and shaping inclusive community responses.

On 8 May, UNHCR held an information and Q&A session with members of the refugee community in Constanța. Discussions focused on access to social services, healthcare, documentation procedures, university admission, child benefits and discrimination-related concerns. Participants raised key questions on medical issues, enrolment procedures, document preparation and applications for child allowances. The session provided a space for dialogue tailored to community needs. UNHCR also facilitated a creative well-being activity, "Melody of Petrykivka", combining singing and elements of Petrykivka painting, including floral finger painting, to support relaxation and emotional well-being. The activities marked EU Diversity Month, fostering inclusion, intergenerational exchange and stronger community connections among refugees.

On 8 May, refugees from Ukraine participated in "Melody of Petrykivka". *Photo: UNHCR*

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