

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



212,334

refugees with temporary
protection and refugee status
in Romania
(as of end May 2026)



© UNHCR | RRP partners came together to celebrate World Refugee Day during the "Together in the Park" community event at Roaba de Cultură, bringing refugees and host community members together through creativity, play, and shared experiences.

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 June 2026)



13%

Funding level



\$6.4M

Total received
funds* vs. 48.6M
appeal



\$43.6M

Funding gap of
appeal



42

Reporting partners out of
43 appealing
partners



32

Partners reporting no
new funding received
this year for their
refugee related projects



11,369

People reached as
of June 2026 vs.
144,000 target**

*Data reflects information reported by partners as of the end of Q2 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

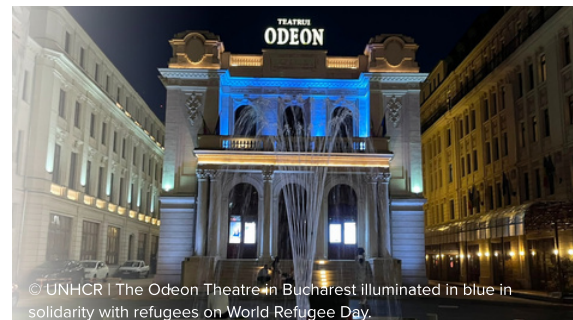
Strengthening trust, solidarity, and meaningful connections between refugees and host communities across Romania.



Localization

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

INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE



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 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 end May 2026, a total of 212,334 refugees were granted temporary protection and refugee 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.

Kicking Off Inclusion Through Sport

On 12 June, as part of a series of events marking World Refugee Day, UNHCR, in partnership with the Romanian Football Federation, organised the Together on the Pitch football tournament. Six mixed teams—comprising refugees from Ukraine and other countries, representatives of the General Inspectorate for Immigration (GII), the General Directorate of Social Assistance of the Municipality of Bucharest (DGASMB), and a team representing UNHCR and humanitarian partners—came together in a spirit of teamwork, fair play and friendly competition.

More than a sporting event, the tournament highlighted the power of football to break down barriers, foster meaningful connections across cultures, and promote inclusion, solidarity and mutual respect both on and off the pitch.

From Emergency Coordination to Lasting Partnerships

The collaborative model developed through the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) is helping inform broader discussions on how public institutions and civil society can work together beyond the refugee response.

On 12 June, UNHCR participated in a consultation convened by the Presidential Administration to launch the co-creation process for a future national civil society collaboration mechanism. Bringing together around 120 representatives from civil society organisations, public institutions, academia, think tanks, independent media and international organisations, the event marked an important step towards establishing a more structured and inclusive framework for dialogue and cooperation.

Drawing on the experience of coordinating the Refugee Response Plan (RRP), UNHCR co-facilitated the working group dedicated to designing the future consultation and coordination mechanism. Discussions explored its potential functions, governance structure and long-term sustainability, while highlighting the importance of preserving the partnerships, expertise and inclusive approaches developed through previous multi-stakeholder coordination efforts. UNHCR also contributed to working groups on human security, fundamental rights and vulnerable groups, as well as data, research and evidence-based policymaking, bringing perspectives from refugee inclusion into wider national policy discussions.

The consultation highlighted how coordination mechanisms established in response to humanitarian crises can generate lasting value beyond emergency settings. By sharing lessons from the RRP, partners contributed to shaping a collaborative model that could strengthen dialogue between public institutions and civil society across a broad range of policy areas in Romania.



© UNHCR | On 12 June, UNHCR, in collaboration with the Romanian Football Federation, organized the “Together on the Pitch” football tournament.

INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE



© WHO Romania/Mihai Eremia

Together in the Park: A Collective Celebration of Inclusion and Social Cohesion

Marking World Refugee Day, the second edition of Together in the Park showcased how collaboration across the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) can strengthen social cohesion by creating shared spaces where refugees and host communities connect, learn and celebrate together.

On 20 June, around 500 refugees and members of the host community gathered in Herăstrău Park for the event, organised in coordination with Green Revolution. Bringing together UNHCR, the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR), IOM Romania, the Independent Midwives Association (AMI), Save the Children Romania, the National Youth Foundation, and the Roma Education Fund Romania, the initiative demonstrated the value of partnership in promoting inclusion and community engagement.



Throughout the afternoon, families took part in a wide variety of activities, including arts and crafts, sports, music, reading corners, parenting workshops, youth activities, information sessions and interactive games. Visitors also enjoyed an interactive quest linking partner stands, multicultural stage performances, the "Together on the Pitch" awards ceremony organised with the Romanian Football Federation, and an evening screening of Capernaum. These activities created opportunities for meaningful interaction, cultural exchange and mutual understanding between refugees and local communities.

The event was further enriched by the Red Panda team's House of Wishes and Dreams, an interactive installation that invited participants to reflect on their aspirations and hopes for the future while creating lasting memories together.

More than a celebration, Together in the Park demonstrated how coordinated action by RRP partners can transform a public space into an inclusive community hub, fostering trust, participation and a stronger sense of belonging for refugees and host communities alike.

Developed by UNHCR in partnership with Green Revolution, Together in the Park aims to strengthen social cohesion by creating welcoming public spaces where refugees and host communities can connect through culture, creativity and shared experiences. Following the success of the World Refugee Day event, the 2026 edition will continue throughout the summer with four community events, concluding with a final gathering on 25–27 September.

ACHIEVEMENTS BY SECTOR - JUNE 2026

SECTOR	PEOPLE REACHED	TARGET	FUNDING LEVEL
 Protection	9,551	35,300	34%
 Child Protection	1,524	5,000	1%
 Gender-based Violence	7,049	28,000	5%
 Education	1,370	3,300	4%
 Basic Needs	650	23,400	0%
 Public Health & MHPSS	4,442	23,700	11%
 Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	2,151	13,300	9%

Spotlight story

EDNAE

Building inclusive, resilient communities through care, volunteering and psychosocial support

EDNAE (Everyone Deserves Non-Violence and Equality) supports refugees and vulnerable groups in Suceava County, Romania, with a focus on inclusion, wellbeing, and community resilience. Among the most vulnerable are elderly refugees, who often face isolation, trauma, and difficulties adapting to a new environment.



Volunteers and staff come together as one team, demonstrating how community engagement and solidarity create lasting support for refugees and host communities.



250+ FAMILIES SUPPORTED

including children, teenagers, women and seniors



35 VOLUNTEERS EMPOWERED

many with refugee background



SUCEAVA COMMUNITY BASED SUPPORT

for refugees and host communities



CHILDREN - WOMEN - SENIORS - FAMILIES

integrated support for every stage of life



ABOUT EDNAE

In the past year, EDNAE has supported over 250 families, including children, teenagers, women, and seniors, through psychosocial support, education, and food security activities. At the same time, they have empowered 35 volunteers, many with refugee backgrounds, to actively contribute to community life.



HOW WE SUPPORT

WELBEING & PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT



- Individual and group support
- Trauma-informed care
- Safe and confidential spaces

CREATIVE & THERAPEUTIC ACTIVITIES



- Art therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Cooking therapy
- Non-formal educational

EDUCATION & EMPOWERMENT



- Non-formal learning
- Skills development
- Activities for children and teenagers

FOOD SECURITY & BASIC SUPPORT



- Food assistance
- Material support
- Support for vulnerable households



COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

EDNAE also supports the host community, participating in local initiatives such as emergency response efforts during the floods in Galați and Broșteni, strengthening solidarity between communities. Through social media awareness, we promote inclusion and empathy on a wider scale.

EDNAE's volunteers are at the heart of everything they do. Many of them are refugees who choose to give back and uplift others



Volunteers from EDNAE work alongside local communities in Broșteni, demonstrating the power of solidarity in the aftermath of devastating floods.

A STORY OF HOPE

Through EDNAE's dedicated activities for seniors—including art therapy, occupational therapy, cooking therapy, and non-formal educational sessions—they create safe and welcoming spaces where older people can reconnect, share experiences, and regain a sense of purpose.

Ludmila (68), originally from Kharkiv, joined EDNAE after arriving in Romania alone.

“I lost my home and felt like I lost myself too. Here, I found people who listen, who care. I smile again.”

- Ludmila, refugee

Through regular participation in cooking and art therapy sessions, Liudmila rebuilt her confidence and formed meaningful friendships.



Participants come together during an EDNAE cooking class, using shared meals as an opportunity to build friendships, strengthen wellbeing and foster a sense of belonging.

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

Total appeal ● Funded ● Unfunded

\$12.5M

33.9%

66.1%

WORKING GROUP CO-CHAIRS



KEY PARTNERS



AGENTIA NATIONALA
PENTRU EGALITATEA DE SANSE
INTRE FEMEI SI BARBATI



CRUCEA ROȘIE
ROMÂNĂ



Full list of sectoral appealing partners: 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 Access to Protection and Social Services

Local partnerships help refugees better understand and access the services they need while strengthening their inclusion in host communities.

Throughout June, UNHCR worked alongside local authorities to improve refugees' access to social protection and community support. In Constanța County, in partnership with DGASPC Constanța, information sessions on disability certification and the Minimum Inclusion Income scheme helped 17 Ukrainian refugees better understand eligibility criteria, administrative procedures and available benefits. A creative community activity involving 20 participants complemented these sessions, promoting psychosocial well-being, peer support and social cohesion through inclusive intergenerational engagement.

A similar mission to Galați County confirmed continued access to disability assessment, specialised services and social benefits for refugee families, while highlighting housing affordability as an emerging challenge following the end of the accommodation programme. Following UNHCR's advocacy, DGASPC Galați made key sections of its website available in Ukrainian, improving refugees' access to essential information. Throughout the month, UNHCR also organised three Romanian Speaking Club sessions at the Romexpo Community Centre, helping participants build language skills, confidence and stronger community connections through practical conversations on everyday topics.

Building Protection Capacity While Delivering Legal Assistance

Direct legal support and professional learning continued to reinforce refugee protection across Romania.

On 26 June, UNHCR co-organised the 14th Galați Summer School on the Protection and Rights of Refugees, bringing together law students and professionals from judicial and public institutions. Interactive sessions on forced displacement, international protection and refugee law strengthened participants' knowledge and contributed to building future protection capacity.

Alongside these efforts, CNRR provided legal counselling and practical support to 519 forcibly displaced and stateless persons (FDSPs), including temporary protection holders, beneficiaries of international protection and asylum seekers. The organisation carried out 40 accompaniments to medical and socio-economic services, supported 17 family reunification and family reunion cases, leading to the arrival of two family members in Romania, and provided 155 displaced people from Ukraine with information on temporary protection procedures and their rights and obligations.



PROTECTION



Advocacy Driving More Inclusive Policies

Dialogue with national and local institutions continued to shape a more accessible and rights-based protection environment for refugees.

CNRR, UNHCR and national authorities advanced several important policy discussions during June. Together with Terre des Hommes, CNRR met the Ombudsperson's Office to discuss implementation of the EU Pact on Asylum and Migration, including progress towards establishing the fundamental rights monitoring mechanism and challenges related to complaints procedures, staff training and resources. UNHCR also strengthened cooperation with the National Council for Combating Discrimination (CNCD) by sharing findings on discrimination affecting refugees, supporting more accessible complaints procedures through translation, and agreeing to help disseminate CNCD's forthcoming awareness campaign.

CNRR also advocated for fairer access to long-term residence by seeking clarification from the GII Migration Directorate on the new Romanian language certification requirement, highlighting its potential financial impact on refugees. At the Bucharest Municipality's public consultation on social housing, the organisation proposed more inclusive eligibility criteria, including recognition of beneficiaries of international protection under GEO No. 44/2004 and consideration of residence in the Bucharest Reception Centre. In addition, at an event hosted by the Faculty of Geography in Bucharest, CNRR highlighted barriers preventing displaced people from accessing higher education and recommended developing a best practice guide to strengthen cooperation between universities and public institutions.

Bringing Communities Together on World Refugee Day

Shared experiences and cultural exchange helped strengthen relationships between refugees and host communities.

World Refugee Day celebrations demonstrated the power of community engagement to foster inclusion. Through UNHCR's "Together in the Park" initiative, refugee and host community families came together for arts, games and sports that encouraged interaction, creativity and social cohesion.

CNRR expanded the celebration with a photo booth, henna art, a refugee art exhibition and a community treasure hunt that brought together participants of all ages. The activity concluded with 41 winners, who received tickets to the Grigore Antipa National Museum of Natural History, the Romanian Peasant Museum, and handmade gifts created by CNRR staff. By showcasing the work of two refugee artists alongside opportunities for shared experiences, the event celebrated the cultural contributions refugees make to Romanian society while strengthening connections with local communities.

Looking Ahead

Important protection challenges remain despite continued progress. Although the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum entered into force on 12 June 2026, the related national legislation has yet to be adopted following the recent change of government, delaying the establishment of the fundamental rights monitoring mechanism.

Meanwhile, the Galați Screening Centre became operational on the same date, but newly arrived migrants reaching the centre after 15:00 still face a gap in meal provision, prompting authorities to seek NGO support.

CNRR also continues to observe inconsistent implementation of Emergency Ordinance 96/2024 in Brașov, where some private healthcare providers continue requesting referral notes from temporary protection holders, creating unnecessary barriers to accessing healthcare.

Addressing these gaps will require continued collaboration between authorities and humanitarian partners to ensure that policy commitments translate into effective protection in practice.



CHILD PROTECTION

Protecting and Supporting Ukrainian Refugee
Children in Romania



© SCOP Timisoara | SERA/Photographer Livia Mateias



9

PARTNERS
appealing



5,000

PEOPLE TARGETED
in 2026



\$4.2M

FINANCIAL REQUEST
in 2026

Total appeal

● Funded

● Unfunded

\$4.2M

99.3%

WORKING GROUP CO-CHAIRS



unicef
for every child



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

KEY PARTNERS



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

Strengthening Inclusive Child Protection Services

Close collaboration with local authorities is helping ensure that refugee children continue to access specialised services while making information more accessible for families navigating Romania's child protection system.

Ensuring that refugee children can access protection services on an equal footing with host community children remains a cornerstone of the refugee response. During a mission to Galați County on 9 June, UNHCR met with representatives of DGASPC Galați to review the child protection situation and discuss both existing and emerging concerns affecting refugee children.

The discussions confirmed that no major child protection concerns had been identified locally, reflecting the continued availability of core child protection services for refugee families. Particular attention was given to children with disabilities, with local authorities confirming that refugee children continue to have access to disability certification, specialised services and counselling to help families understand available support and administrative procedures. Language barriers are addressed through communication in English and the use of translation applications where necessary, helping ensure that families are able to navigate the system.

Recognising that access to services also depends on access to information, UNHCR encouraged DGASPC to make key information available in Ukrainian. Shortly after the meeting, the institution updated relevant sections of its website, providing Ukrainian-speaking families with easier access to practical guidance on available services. The initiative represents a simple but meaningful step towards making public services more inclusive and accessible for refugee families.

Creativity, Inclusion and Well-being through Shared Experiences

Creative activities offered refugee and host community children safe spaces to express themselves, build friendships and strengthen their sense of belonging.

Beyond access to formal services, creating opportunities for children to connect, play and express themselves remains essential to their emotional well-being. In the lead-up to World Refugee Day, UNHCR organised two creative workshops on 11 and 16 June, bringing together 20 refugee and host community children and their families.



CHILD PROTECTION



Through bracelet-making, drawing and other creative activities, children explored themes including friendship, solidarity, home, safety and inclusion while sharing their own experiences in an age-appropriate and supportive environment. The workshops encouraged dialogue between refugee and local families, promoted psychosocial well-being and strengthened social cohesion by creating opportunities for children from different backgrounds to learn from one another.

UNHCR continued these efforts on 23 June with "My Dream Summer 2026," an activity involving 15 refugee children. Guided discussions invited participants to reflect on their hopes, interests and planned summer adventures before transforming their ideas into personalised notebooks. By encouraging children to look ahead with optimism while expressing themselves creatively, the activity strengthened communication skills, confidence and peer interaction, providing a positive and engaging environment during the school holidays.

Together, these initiatives demonstrate how creative, community-based activities complement formal child protection services by nurturing resilience, promoting inclusion and helping refugee children feel safe, valued and connected within their communities.

Looking Ahead

As refugee families continue to transition towards longer-term inclusion, sustained investment in community-based child protection activities remains essential.

Continued psychosocial and social cohesion initiatives can help children build resilience, develop friendships and strengthen their sense of belonging alongside their peers.

At the same time, regular outreach and accessible information-sharing are needed to ensure families remain aware of available child protection services, disability-related support and referral pathways.

Expanding Ukrainian-language information across public institutions will further reduce barriers and enable refugee families to access services with greater confidence and independence.



BASIC NEEDS

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



© UNHCR



13

PARTNERS
appealing



23,400

PEOPLE TARGETED
in 2026



\$8.1M

FINANCIAL REQUEST
in 2026

Total appeal

● Funded ● Unfunded

\$8.1M 100%

WORKING GROUP CO-CHAIRS



Salvați Copiii
Save the Children Romania



**CRUCEA ROȘIE
ROMÂNĂ**

KEY PARTNERS



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

Information and Language as Pathways to Self-Reliance

Reliable information and language skills continue to play a vital role in helping refugees navigate public services, access opportunities and become increasingly independent.

Throughout June, the Sibiu Community Foundation (SCF) continued supporting Ukrainian refugees through the LOCAL programme, providing individual online consultations and practical guidance on a broad range of issues affecting daily life in Romania. Refugees received advice on temporary protection procedures, healthcare, education, employment, housing, administrative requirements and access to social services, while SCF regularly updated its practical information guide to ensure that refugees could rely on accurate and up-to-date information as regulations continued to evolve.

SCF also continued delivering Romanian language courses for 100 adult participants, helping refugees build the language skills needed to communicate with public institutions, access services independently and participate more fully in community life. Complementing these formal courses, the Romanian Speaking Club, implemented together with Parohia Evanghelică Sibiu, provided participants with additional opportunities to practice conversational Romanian, gain confidence in everyday interactions and strengthen their integration into local communities. Together, these initiatives demonstrate that language learning and accessible information are not only integration tools but also essential components of meeting refugees' everyday basic needs.

Protecting Dignity Through Essential Assistance

As the refugee response increasingly shifts from emergency support towards longer-term inclusion, access to basic assistance remains a lifeline for the most vulnerable households. Throughout June, humanitarian partners continued to help refugees meet their immediate needs while supporting them to navigate an evolving assistance landscape.

In partnership with the General Directorate of Social Assistance of Bucharest Municipality (DGASMB) and AIDROM, UNHCR continued distributing essential core relief items (CRIs) and other non-food items (NFIs), including mattresses, hygiene kits and undergarments, helping forcibly displaced people maintain safe and dignified living conditions. During June, 23 people in Bucharest and Timiș received support through these distributions.

These efforts build on one of the longest-running assistance programmes of the refugee response. Since the onset of the Ukraine emergency, UNHCR has distributed more than 174,264 core relief items to approximately 46,894 Ukrainian refugees, including vulnerable third-country nationals and members of the Romanian host community. While the scale of emergency assistance has evolved over time, the continued provision of essential items remains critical for refugees facing financial hardship or unstable living conditions.



BASIC NEEDS



Supporting Refugees to Secure Safe Housing

Access to accommodation is becoming one of the most pressing challenges facing refugee families as emergency support mechanisms gradually evolve. Alongside material assistance, legal information and close engagement with local authorities are helping refugees better understand their rights and prepare for changing housing arrangements.

On 3 June, UNHCR organised an information session delivered by the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Romania, bringing together 14 participants both in person and online from across Romania. The session provided practical guidance on the rights and obligations of landlords and tenants under Romanian law, explaining rental agreements, dispute resolution mechanisms and ways to safeguard housing rights. By enabling participants to ask individual questions and receive tailored legal advice, the session strengthened their ability to make informed decisions and reduce the risk of housing disputes.

Housing remained a central focus of UNHCR's field engagement. During a mission to Galați County on 9 June, UNHCR assessed accommodation conditions and broader protection needs while contributing to the due diligence process and strengthening cooperation with the refugee-led organisation Help Ukrainians. Discussions with residents at Bloc M11 provided valuable insight into living conditions and emerging protection concerns, while meetings with the Galați City Manager and other local authorities explored longer-term accommodation solutions and municipal preparedness to support refugees at risk of eviction.

The municipality confirmed its intention to introduce accommodation fees for residents of Bloc M11 while developing a framework that would allow exemptions or targeted support for particularly vulnerable households. The mission highlighted the importance of transparent communication and appropriate mitigation measures as accommodation policies evolve, and reaffirmed the need for continued dialogue between humanitarian partners, refugee-led organisations and local authorities. UNHCR will continue to monitor developments and support coordinated responses to emerging protection risks.

Looking Ahead

Access to safe and affordable accommodation remains the most significant basic needs challenge facing refugees in Romania. The temporary closure of the Pallady Accommodation Centre for maintenance, combined with a growing number of accommodation centres requiring residents to contribute towards rent and utility costs, has further reduced available housing options. These pressures disproportionately affect vulnerable households with limited income and coping capacities, increasing the risk of inadequate housing and associated protection concerns.

Finding suitable accommodation is particularly difficult for refugees with specific protection needs, including persons with disabilities, older people, individuals with serious medical conditions and survivors of violence. Accessible housing remains scarce, while administrative barriers, uneven local service capacity and limited access to social services continue to hinder sustainable housing solutions.

At the same time, refugees continue to require reliable, accessible and up-to-date information as administrative procedures and public service requirements evolve. Language remains one of the main barriers to independent access to services. Although Romanian language courses have significantly strengthened refugees' autonomy, demand continues to exceed available capacity, particularly for beginners, while opportunities to progress beyond A2 level remain limited. Community-based services such as the information and advisory support provided through the Sibiu Community Foundation and the Romanian Speaking Club continue to operate without dedicated external funding. Sustained investment in these initiatives will be essential to ensure refugees can continue accessing accurate information, navigate public services confidently and build greater self-reliance over the longer term.



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

95%

WORKING GROUP CO-CHAIRS



AGENȚIA NAȚIONALĂ
PENTRU EGALITATEA DE ȘANSE
ÎNȚRE FEMEI ȘI BĂRBAȚI

KEY PARTNERS



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

Creating Safe Spaces for Healing, Connection and Resilience

Community-based support continues to play an important role in helping refugee women rebuild confidence, strengthen emotional well-being and develop positive coping strategies while adapting to life in Romania.

Throughout June, UNHCR's Women's Club at the Romexpo Community Centre provided refugee women with safe and welcoming spaces where they could reflect, connect with peers and prioritise their own well-being. Beyond offering opportunities for social interaction, the sessions encouraged participants to explore resilience, manage stress and build emotional resources that support both themselves and their families.

Ahead of World Refugee Day, on 18 June, UNHCR organised a Women's Club session bringing together five refugee women for guided discussions and creative activities centred on motherhood, resilience and rebuilding life in a new country. Participants reflected on the values and strengths inherited from their parents while exploring how they could foster calm, stability and emotional security for their children in Romania. Creative exercises using foil and metaphorical cue cards encouraged self-expression, relaxation and reflection, helping participants identify personal sources of strength and develop positive coping strategies for the future.

These well-being activities continued on 30 June with a Neurographics Workshop, also attended by five refugee women. Through guided neurographic drawing exercises, participants explored personal aspirations, visualised future goals and worked on reducing anxiety and emotional tension in a supportive environment. Requiring no previous artistic experience, the workshop offered an accessible way to promote emotional balance, self-reflection and personal growth, reinforcing the value of creative approaches to psychosocial support.

Together, the Women's Club sessions demonstrate how regular community-based activities can help refugee women strengthen resilience, reduce isolation and build supportive peer networks while navigating the challenges of displacement.

Looking Ahead

Many refugee women continue to require safe spaces where they can access emotional support, strengthen resilience and connect with others facing similar experiences. Expanding access to specialised gender-based violence services, including referral pathways for survivors, remains essential. At the same time, broader outreach and stronger peer support networks will help ensure that more women can benefit from community-based activities that promote well-being, confidence and long-term recovery.



LIVELIHOODS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION

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



© UNHCR/Ioana Moldovan



25

PARTNERS
appealing



13,300

PEOPLE TARGETED
in 2026



\$10.9M

FINANCIAL REQUEST
in 2026

Total appeal

● Funded

● Unfunded

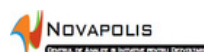
\$10.9M

91.5%

WORKING GROUP CO-CHAIRS



KEY PARTNERS



Full list of sectoral appealing partners: 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 | Salvați Copiii | UNHCR | UNICEF | World Vision Romanian | YMCA

Building Pathways to Employment and Economic Inclusion

Refugees remain highly motivated to rebuild their lives through employment, but language barriers and access to suitable opportunities continue to slow their journey towards economic self-reliance.

Throughout June, partners combined labour market analysis, language learning and personalised support to better connect refugees with employment opportunities in Romania.

To better understand the challenges refugees face when entering the labour market, Jobs for Ukraine conducted a comprehensive online survey through its Telegram community, gathering responses from 119 to 246 participants, depending on the topic. The findings paint a picture of a community that is both adaptable and eager to work. Among 160 respondents, the greatest interest was in office and administrative roles (53%), followed by technical occupations (19%) and hospitality positions, including kitchen assistants (19%) and other service-sector jobs (approximately 16%). Flexibility was also evident, with 46% willing to temporarily accept non-qualified work, 39% continuing to pursue employment in their profession while considering simpler jobs, and 33% open to junior or entry-level positions.

The survey also identified the barriers preventing refugees from translating this motivation into employment. Among 246 respondents, only 3% reported good proficiency in both Romanian and English, while 47% had strong English skills but limited Romanian, confirming that Romanian language proficiency remains the single greatest obstacle to labour market integration. Recruitment outcomes reflected this challenge. Of 155 respondents, 39% had not yet reached the interview stage, 22% were actively seeking employment but had not been invited to interviews, and only 21% had secured a job following interviews. Among 101 respondents who had experienced unsuccessful applications or interviews, 56% identified limited language skills as the main reason, followed by lack of employer feedback (39%) and insufficient relevant work experience (24%).

The findings reinforce the need for continued investment in Romanian language learning, employer engagement, interview preparation and support with the recognition of professional qualifications.



LIVELIHOODS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION



© UNHCR/Mihai Eremia

Language Skills as the Foundation for Long-Term Inclusion

Learning Romanian continues to be one of the most effective investments in refugees' long-term independence, improving access not only to employment but also to public services and everyday life.

The Sibiu Community Foundation (SCF) continued delivering Romanian language courses for 100 Ukrainian adult refugees through the LOCAL programme, supported by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). Running since March 2026, the courses focus on practical language skills that help participants communicate confidently with employers, public institutions and local communities, strengthening both employability and long-term integration.

To help learners continue practising beyond the classroom, SCF also facilitated the Romanian Speaking Club in partnership with Parohia Evanghelică Sibiu, where participants who had reached A2 level could regularly develop conversational skills alongside local volunteers. In parallel, SCF continued providing individual information and advisory services covering employment, education, healthcare, housing, administrative procedures and access to public services, while regularly updating its practical information guide to ensure refugees had access to reliable and up-to-date information. Together, these complementary services demonstrate that language learning, practical guidance and community engagement are all essential building blocks for sustainable socio-economic inclusion.

Looking Ahead

Partners continue to identify Romanian language proficiency as the principal barrier to labour market integration. Although many refugees possess functional English-language skills, these are rarely sufficient to meet the requirements of the Romanian labour market. Demand for Romanian language courses continues to exceed available capacity, particularly at beginner level, while opportunities for structured learning beyond A2 remain limited.

Employment opportunities also remain constrained. Many refugees continue to struggle to secure interviews despite actively seeking work, highlighting the need for stronger employer engagement, targeted job matching, career guidance and interview preparation. At the same time, the recognition of professional qualifications remains a significant obstacle, particularly in regulated professions where vocational training and certification are available only in Romanian. This limits access to skilled employment even where employers are actively seeking qualified candidates.

Looking ahead, sustained investment in Romanian language learning, qualification recognition pathways, employer partnerships and community-based support services—including conversation clubs, information services and individual advisory support—will be essential to help refugees access decent work, strengthen their independence and achieve long-term economic inclusion in Romania.

Spotlight story

ASSOC

Supporting integration through opportunity, guidance and belonging

ASSOC is a non-governmental organization dedicated to improving the living conditions of disadvantaged groups, with a strong focus on migrants and refugees. Since its establishment, the organization has promoted social assistance and inclusion, building nearly a decade of experience in implementing integration-focused projects. Many of these initiatives have been financed through the National Programme for Asylum, Migration and Integration, coordinated by the Inspector General for Immigration.



After fleeing Ukraine, Alisa pursued her dream of higher education in Romania. With guidance from ASSOC, she successfully enrolled at the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca.



**7 PROJECTS
IMPLEMENTED**

to support displaced
Ukrainians since the
start of the crisis



**30,000 +
PEOPLE ASSISTED**

through the Blue Dot
in Sighetu Marmatiei
since 2022



**900+
PEOPLE SUPPORTED**

through PRISM4
since 2024



**5+ COUNTIES
COVERED**

including Maramures,
Cluj, Mures, Sibiu and
Alba



PROJECT OVERVIEW

ASSOC has implemented seven projects to aid displaced Ukrainians. The first, launched in February 2022 at Sighetu Marmatiei 's Blue Dot, created a safe space for refugees entering Romania from conflict zones. Under UNICEF's patronage, the project served over 30,000 people.



PRISM4 PROJECT

Beginning in 2024, ASSOC partnered with the International Organization for Migration in Romania to implement the PRISM4 project (Promoting Inclusion Services in Region 4). Running until 2026, the project aims to support the socio-economic integration of beneficiaries of international or temporary protection and third-country nationals. PRISM4 provides services across several counties in Romania, including Maramures, Cluj, Mures, Sibiu, and Alba, among others. To date, more than 900 individuals have received assistance.



INTEGRATED SUPPORT SERVICES

Through PRISM4, ASSOC provides a comprehensive package of services that supports beneficiaries throughout their integration journey. Assistance combines practical support with long-term inclusion measures, helping migrants build independent lives in Romania.

LANGUAGE & ORIENTATION

- Romanian language courses
- Cultural orientation
- Socio-cultural activities
- Community events

EMPLOYMENT & INCLUSION

- Career guidance
- Employment support
- Social counselling
- Labour market information

LEGAL & DOCUMENTATION

- Legal counselling
- Permanent residence support
- Citizenship support
- Family reunification assistance

WELLBEING & FAMILY

- Healthcare access
- Psychological support
- Material assistance
- Educational support for children

ALISA'S STORY

The impact of ASSOC's work is illustrated through Alisa's story, a young Ukrainian refugee who found both support and a sense of belonging through the organization.

With guidance from ASSOC's social consultants, Alisa successfully navigated complex university admission procedures, improved her Romanian language skills, and enrolled in the preparatory year at the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca.

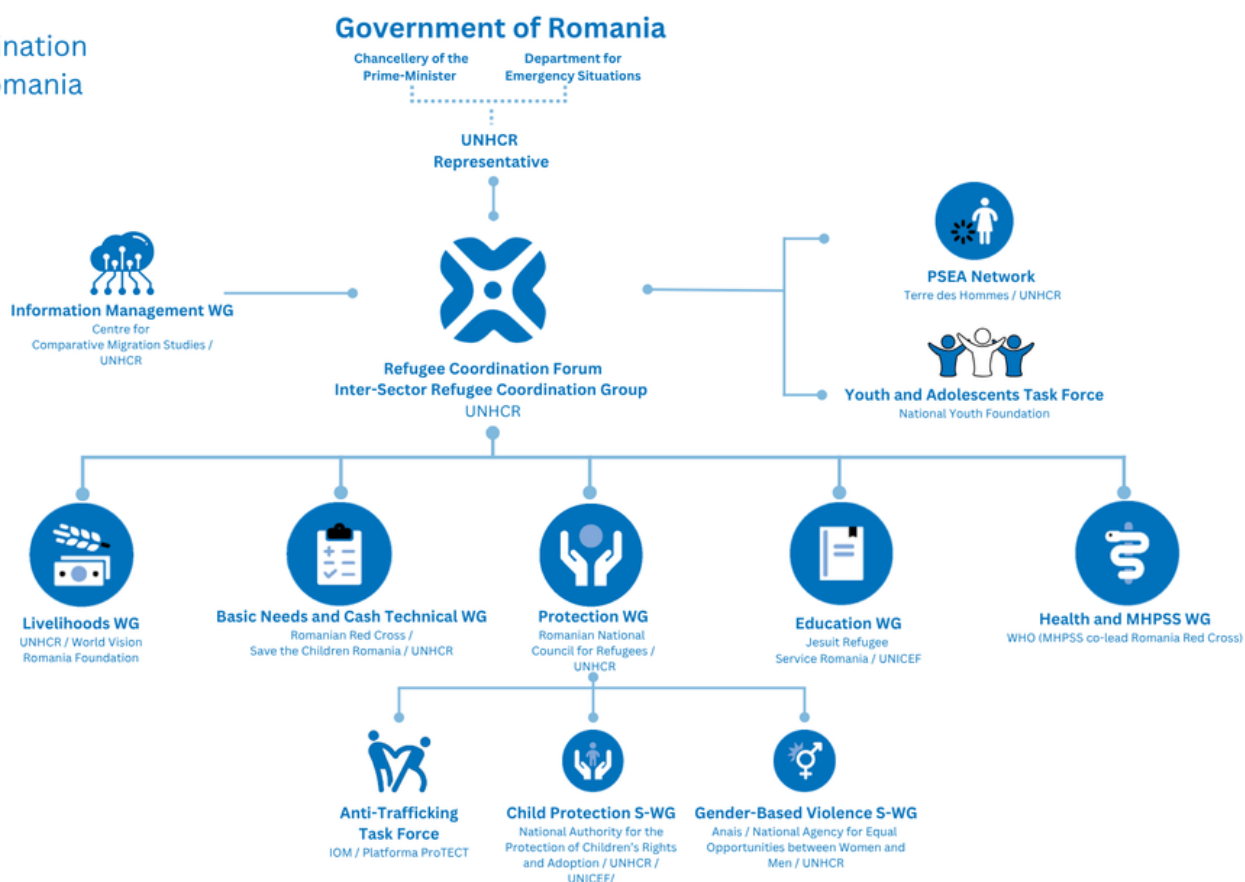
Today, she is a fully integrated university student, living in a multicultural environment and fluent in multiple languages, demonstrating the long-term value of comprehensive integration support.



Photo credit: Alisa Stepanenko and CRI Baia Mare (Regional Center of Integration).

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 Moșelor 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

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LINKS:

[Regional data portal](#)
[Romania Page](#)
[Ukraine Situation RRP](#)
[Refugee Funding Tracker](#)
[Romania Refugee Response Plan - Results](#)