

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



219,360

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



© UNHCR | Refugees and host community members come together during the "Together in the Park" community event at Roaba de Cultură in Bucharest, enjoying an afternoon of cultural activities, play and shared experiences.

APPEAL BY SECTOR (USD)



Protection

\$12.5M



Livelihoods & Socio
Economic Inclusion

\$10.9M



Basic Needs

\$8.1M



Public Health &
MHPSS

\$4.0M



Education

\$6.4M



Child Protection

\$4.2M



Gender-based
Violence

\$2.5M

2026 RESPONSE SNAPSHOT (as of July 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



16,849

People reached as
of July 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



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Operational Context

Within the framework of the Refugee Response Plan (RRP), UN agencies and 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 July 2026, a total of 219,360 refugees were granted temporary protection and refugee status in Romania.



This status 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.

Building on the IMWG: Expanding the ReMAP Network

ReMAP is building on the collaboration fostered through the refugee response to create a longer-term platform connecting practitioners, authorities and academia on refugee and migration issues in Romania.

On 9 July, UNHCR, together with the Department for Emergency Situations (DSU) and the Centre for Comparative Migration Studies (CSCM), hosted a hybrid event at RomExpo to introduce the Refugee and Migration Academia and Practitioners Network in Romania (ReMAP) to DSU partners, bringing together 21 participants in person and online.



Co-led by UNHCR and CSCM, the [ReMAP Network](#) brings together academia, national and local authorities, NGOs, international organisations and

UN agencies working on refugee and migration issues. Building on the experience and collaborative model of the Information Management Working Group (IMWG), ReMAP aims to provide a sustainable platform for continued cooperation, knowledge exchange and evidence-informed responses as the refugee response evolves.

The event broadened engagement with ReMAP among actors involved in Romania's emergency and refugee response. Participants attending in person also joined a short tour of the RomExpo Community Centre, connecting the network's emphasis on collaboration and knowledge exchange with practical examples of refugee support and community engagement.

[Explore the ReMAP Network](#)

ACHIEVEMENTS BY SECTOR - JULY 2026

SECTOR	PEOPLE REACHED	TARGET	FUNDING LEVEL
 Protection	14,637	35,300	34%
 Child Protection	1,754	5,000	1%
 Gender-based Violence	11,805	28,000	5%
 Education	1,420	3,300	4%
 Basic Needs	749	23,400	0%
 Public Health & MHPSS	4,607	23,700	11%
 Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	2,754	13,300	9%

INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE



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

The July edition of Together in the Park once again brought refugees and host communities together through activities designed to encourage participation, creativity and social connection.

On 25 July, UNHCR and Refugee Response Plan partners gathered for another edition of Together in the Park, continuing the initiative launched around World Refugee Day. UNHCR, the Independent Midwives Association (AMI), Save the Children Romania, the National Youth Foundation (FNT), Code for Romania and Roma Education Fund (REF) Romania engaged children and families through various workshops, games and interactive sports activities.

The programme combined recreation with opportunities for learning and inclusion. FNT introduced young people to opportunities available through its youth centre, including 3D printing and virtual reality activities, while Code for Romania presented its SAFE Youth Dialogues platform, designed to help create safe spaces for dialogue with young people affected by war, displacement or social change. AMI, Save the Children and REF Romania complemented the programme with family, creative and recreational activities, creating an inclusive environment where children, young people and adults could meet, learn and connect.

Together, these contributions reinforced the purpose of Together in the Park: transforming a shared public space into an opportunity for refugees and host communities to build relationships, participate in community life and strengthen social cohesion.



Together in the Park brought refugee and host community families together through creative workshops, sports, learning and cultural activities in Bucharest, 25 July 2026. © UNHCR

Spotlight story

INTEGRIS Project by AIDRom



Beneficiaries take part in a community activity at the Regional Integration Centre Timișoara, where the INTEGRIS project provides language, cultural, legal and social support. © AIDROM

The INTEGRIS project, implemented by AIDRom, is funded through the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF/FAMI). The project started in November 2024 and is carried out over a period of two years, in partnership with Filantropia Oradea.

It aims to support beneficiaries in their integration process by providing comprehensive and tailored services, contributing to the creation of a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for personal and social development.


539

beneficiaries
supported, from over
25 countries of origin


210

beneficiaries
received material
and social assistance


200

beneficiaries
participated in Romanian
languages courses


220

beneficiaries attended
civic and cultural
orientation sessions


180

beneficiaries
benefited from
legal counseling

Through these services, the project facilitates adaptation to Romanian society, promotes autonomy and strengthens a sense of belonging.

BUILDING CONFIDENCE AND CONNECTION



An important part of this work is carried out by Roseti Mohamed Suzan, Social Pedagogue, who organizes activities focused on promoting Romanian culture, developing communication skills through Romanian language conversations, and recreational sessions. These activities create a welcoming space where beneficiaries can learn, interact, and feel part of the community.

“Through cultural, language, and recreational activities, I support beneficiaries in gaining confidence and adapting to their new environment. Seeing their progress and sense of belonging is truly rewarding.

Roseti Mohamed Suzan, Social Pedagogue

A BENEFICIARY'S STORY

Hla, 27 years old, from Syria, shares her experience

“I completed my Bachelor's degree in Marketing in Syria and came to Romania to pursue my Master's studies. I like AIDRom because I feel like I am with family here. I have met people from many countries and I no longer feel alone. AIDRom supported me through legal counseling when I applied for asylum and after I received it, as well as through Romanian language classes and participation in their activities. The activities that left a strong impression on me were the Iftar during Ramadan, where I felt comfortable, like I was at home with my family, the trip to Hunedoara where I learned about Romanian history, and participating in Dragobete celebrations and the Christmas party.



INTEGRIS beneficiaries visit Hunedoara as part of activities promoting Romanian culture, community participation and social inclusion. © AIDRom

These experiences highlight the essential role of the Regional Integration Centre Timișoara in supporting beneficiaries, fostering integration, and creating an environment where cultural diversity is valued and individuals feel welcomed, supported, and empowered.

 **AIDROM**
ASOCIATIA ECUMENICA A
BISERICILOR DIN ROMANIA

[Learn more about AIDROM](#)

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

Terre des hommes
Helping children worldwide

Salvați Copiii
Save the Children Romania

NOVAPOLIS
Centrul de Analiză și Informații pentru Dezvoltare

Migrant Integration
Center Brasov
Empowering inclusion

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

Connecting protection and healthcare

The fourth Protection Working Group of 2026 brought protection and health actors together to address questions affecting access to care, while strengthening coordination across newly launched programmes.

For temporary protection holders with chronic or complex health conditions, navigating the healthcare system can be particularly challenging. On 28 July, CNRR and UNHCR convened the fourth Protection Working Group of 2026, bringing protection stakeholders together with the National Health Insurance House (CNAS) to clarify access to healthcare, with particular attention to vulnerable temporary protection holders.

The meeting also created space for information-sharing on temporary protection and military service provisions, while helping strengthen coordination and referral pathways among newly launched AMIF-funded projects. Bringing these different strands together is particularly important as refugees increasingly rely on national systems and a growing range of specialised programmes.

The value of such coordination extends beyond information exchange. Clearer referral pathways and stronger links between protection actors and national institutions can help ensure that people with complex needs are identified and connected to appropriate support before gaps in access become protection risks.

Making social housing more inclusive

Four of five recommendations put forward by CNRR have been incorporated into Bucharest's proposed social housing regulations, strengthening recognition of international protection holders within the city's housing framework.

Access to affordable, stable housing remains one of the most difficult steps towards longer-term inclusion. Against this backdrop, Bucharest City Hall adopted four of the five amendments proposed by CNRR to the draft council decision governing social housing, helping ensure that the regulations better reflect the circumstances of people granted international protection.

The revised draft explicitly recognises international protection holders as an eligible category and incorporates them into the prioritisation scoring sheet. It also introduces greater flexibility around mandatory documentation requirements and includes Emergency Ordinance No. 44/2004 in the applicable legal framework.

These changes represent an important advocacy achievement: rather than relying solely on short-term accommodation solutions, the inclusion of refugees within mainstream social housing rules can help create more sustainable pathways towards stability and integration.



PROTECTION



Removing barriers to education: from diploma recognition to university enrolment

Targeted advocacy and individual support are helping forcibly displaced and stateless people turn educational aspirations into concrete opportunities.

For refugees seeking to continue their education in Romania, administrative and digital barriers can have lasting consequences. In July, UNHCR and the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR) raised concerns with the Ministry of Education and Research, the National Centre for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas (CNRED) and the Authority for the Digitalization of Romania over technical barriers affecting beneficiaries of international protection using the new ROePAS platform for study recognition procedures.

Following this engagement, the authorities began working to address the technical issues while keeping alternative submission channels available, helping ensure that access to diploma recognition services was not interrupted. The intervention illustrates how practical obstacles identified through direct work with refugees can inform broader improvements in public systems.

Alongside this systemic advocacy, CNRR supported 51 forcibly displaced and stateless persons with applications to higher education programmes. So far, 16 have received initial acceptances for the preparatory Romanian language year, Bachelor's and Master's programmes and are expected to finalise their enrolment in September. CNRR also helped two vulnerable refugees overcome financial barriers to education: one secured a scholarship in Timișoara, while another received a tuition fee exemption.

Bringing information and support closer to communities

From disability rights and social benefits to temporary protection and healthcare, community-based sessions are helping refugees understand increasingly complex systems and make informed decisions.

At the RomExpo Community Centre, UNHCR organised information sessions on the rights of persons with disabilities, disability certification procedures, social benefits and available services, including the Minimum Inclusion Income (VMI). Interactive discussions and individual guidance helped participants better understand eligibility requirements, application procedures and the support available to them.

CNRR complemented these efforts with two community information sessions in Brașov and Constanța, reaching 43 participants, including persons with disabilities and their caregivers. The sessions covered temporary protection rights, healthcare access, social benefits and disability assessments.

Participants highlighted the strong social value of meeting in this format, showing that community sessions can provide not only practical information but also opportunities for peer connection and mutual support.

Individual counselling remains equally important. CNRR supported 531 forcibly displaced and stateless persons — including temporary protection holders, beneficiaries of international protection and asylum-seekers — to access their rights and essential public services. A further 176 displaced people from Ukraine received information and guidance on temporary protection procedures and their rights and obligations, helping them better understand and navigate the support available to them.

Language, connection and well-being: creating spaces to belong

Community activities are helping refugees build the confidence, relationships and practical skills that make everyday inclusion possible.

Language learning is about more than vocabulary. Throughout July, UNHCR facilitated five Romanian Speaking Club sessions, including hybrid and volunteer-supported meetings. Practical themes — from summer activities, travel and renting accommodation to hobbies and everyday interactions — gave participants opportunities to practice Romanian through conversation, role-play and vocabulary exercises with Romanian-speaking colleagues.

These informal spaces helped refugee participants strengthen both their language skills and their confidence in navigating daily life, while building social connections that can reduce isolation and support longer-term community integration.

Psychosocial well-being was also at the heart of community engagement. A UNHCR Women's Club session created space for self-reflection, resilience and recognising personal resources. Meanwhile, refugee children took part in creative activities including clay modelling and friendship-bracelet making, offering safe and supportive opportunities for self-expression, social interaction and the development of creativity and interpersonal skills. The children's activities also gave parents valuable time to rest and recharge.



PROTECTION



Remaining Needs and Gaps

Housing remains hardest to secure for those who need it most

Emergency and longer-term accommodation continue to be critical protection needs. CNRR has facilitated temporary placements through monasteries, employers and social services, providing essential alternatives for people facing immediate housing insecurity.

Yet options remain extremely limited for highly vulnerable refugees, particularly persons with disabilities or severe health conditions, due to the shortage of appropriate state facilities. Their situation underscores the need for sustainable housing pathways that can accommodate people requiring additional support rather than relying primarily on temporary solutions.

Child allowance suspensions leave families waiting in Constanța

In Constanța, families with multiple children have faced the suspension of state child allowances because of an error in the AJPIS system. CNRR is assisting affected families to request that payments be resumed.

Progress, however, has slowed. Since May, responses from the agency have become slower and have not addressed retroactive payments, leaving affected families without clarity on when outstanding support will be recovered. Continued follow-up will be important to ensure that an administrative error does not translate into prolonged financial hardship for refugee households.

When healthcare rules create unequal access

Despite continued coordination, barriers to healthcare remain particularly visible in Brașov. The Brașov County Health Insurance House (CJAS) instructed family doctors to stop issuing referral notes for temporary protection holders, in line with Emergency Ordinance 96/2024. CNRR subsequently monitored access to specialist consultations in both public and private clinics.

No cases were reported of temporary protection holders being refused specialist consultations at public clinics. However, difficulties arose in two cases where specialists were unable to issue referral notes for further investigations or treatment. In private clinics, temporary protection holders without a referral note are generally required to pay for specialist consultations, with the exception of one clinic. The situation highlights how administrative rules can translate into practical financial and continuity-of-care barriers, particularly for people with ongoing health needs.

Looking Ahead

Romania's protection response is increasingly shaped by the transition from emergency assistance towards sustainable access to national systems. Yet important policy and implementation gaps remain. Although the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum became applicable on 12 June, the necessary national legal framework has not yet been adopted. Consequently, the corresponding fundamental rights monitoring mechanism has not yet been operationalised, leaving an important gap in implementation and oversight.

At the same time, many temporary protection holders remain concerned about changes in the criteria affecting military-age Ukrainian men, particularly the potential implications for their legal status, access to rights and ability to reunite with family members.

The experience across education, healthcare, housing and social protection shows why continued cooperation between authorities, humanitarian organisations and refugee communities remains essential. Progress in July — from more inclusive social housing rules and action on diploma recognition barriers to stronger referral pathways and community-based support — demonstrates what coordinated advocacy can achieve. Addressing the remaining legal, administrative and service-access gaps will be equally important to ensure that refugees can exercise their rights and participate fully in the communities where they now live.



CHILD PROTECTION

Protecting and Supporting Ukrainian Refugee
Children in Romania



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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

From an individual case to stronger local protection links in Pitești

An intervention to support one Ukrainian refugee child and their mother also opened a direct channel for future cooperation between UNHCR and local child protection authorities.

An individual child protection concern brought UNHCR to Pitești on 2 July, where the team met representatives of the Directorate-General for Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC). By reviewing the case together, UNHCR and DGASPC identified a solution to support both the child and the mother, while using the opportunity to examine whether similar or emerging protection concerns were affecting Ukrainian refugee children elsewhere in the county.

DGASPC reported that only a small number of Ukrainian refugees currently remain in the county and that no broader child protection concerns or cases of bullying involving refugee children had been reported. Most refugee children are reportedly enrolled in Romanian schools and appear to adapt more easily than adults. Language barriers, however, continue to pose challenges, particularly for refugee parents.

Beyond resolving the immediate case, the visit established direct cooperation between UNHCR and DGASPC Pitești, creating a stronger basis for communication, referrals and coordinated responses when children and families require support.

From emergency response to local inclusion: municipalities share lessons across Europe

An EU-supported initiative brought together authorities and practitioners from Romania, Poland and Slovakia to explore how local systems can sustain support for refugee and migrant children over the longer term.

As refugee responses increasingly move from emergency assistance towards inclusion in national and local systems, municipalities have a central role in ensuring that children and caregivers can access quality services. On 2–3 July, UNHCR participated in the final event of the EU-funded Technical Support Instrument (TSI) project on improving access to quality and inclusive services for refugee and migrant children and caregivers, held in Bucharest.

The event brought together national and local authorities, municipalities from Romania, Poland and Slovakia, UN agencies, civil society and the European Commission to review the project's results and consider how lessons from the emergency response can inform longer-term inclusion. Exchanges highlighted the importance of strengthening municipal capacities, coordination and partnerships, alongside good practices in social assistance, education, labour market inclusion and community participation.

On the second day, participants visited the Ominis and Lira Municipal Complexes in Bucharest, where integrated municipal services for refugees and other vulnerable groups



CHILD PROTECTION



provided practical examples of locally anchored support. The experience underscored the potential of municipalities to connect services around the needs of families rather than requiring vulnerable people to navigate fragmented systems on their own.

Making screening information understandable and safe for children

UNHCR, UNICEF, the Romanian Border Police and child protection partners are working towards a nationally agreed approach to child-friendly information for children undergoing screening procedures.

Children encountering administrative and border procedures need information they can understand, regardless of their age, circumstances or vulnerability. Responding to a request from the Romanian Border Police Inspectorate, UNHCR and co-chair UNICEF convened the Child Protection Sub-Working Group on 14 July to initiate the development of child-friendly materials explaining the rights and obligations of individuals undergoing the screening procedure.

Child protection partners explored the appropriate scope, format and intended audience of the materials, while the Romanian Border Police emphasised the importance of developing a nationally agreed approach informed by child protection actors. The aim is to ensure that information is adapted to the Romanian context, accessible to all categories of children and useful both during screening activities and in the training of Border Police personnel.

Partners shared existing child-friendly resources and considered practical safeguards and accessibility features, including QR codes and contact details for relevant services. The meeting concluded with agreed next steps: existing resources will be collected and reviewed, while roles and responsibilities will be allocated among partners for the development of the materials.

Protecting children in an increasingly digital world

Child protection organisations strengthened their ability to recognise and respond to risks ranging from cybersecurity threats to online grooming and trafficking recruitment.

Children's safety increasingly extends into digital spaces, while the organisations supporting them must also protect sensitive information and their own systems. On 22 July, UNHCR participated in a digital safety training for civil society organisations in Bucharest, organised by the Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations for Children under the Child Protection Compact Programme.

The training strengthened the capacity of child protection organisations to address risks affecting both their

operations and the children they support. Sessions explored organisational cybersecurity, including risk assessment, data protection, access management and incident response, alongside individual digital safety practices such as account security, phishing awareness and online privacy.

Particular attention was given to threats facing children online, including online grooming and trafficking recruitment methods, as well as risk indicators, identification and reporting protocols and coordination with competent authorities. Practical exercises, case studies and interactive discussions helped participants translate these concepts into stronger prevention and response measures, improving their ability to identify digital threats and promote safer online practices for children at risk.

Creativity, friendship and belonging at RomExpo

Structured recreational activities are giving refugee children opportunities to express themselves, build friendships and simply enjoy being children in a safe environment.

At the RomExpo Community Centre, UNHCR continued creating welcoming spaces where refugee children can connect with their peers and strengthen their psychosocial well-being. On 2 July, children and their parents joined a creative modelling session using clay and plasticine, combining play with opportunities to develop self-expression, fine motor skills and social interaction.

A second activity on 28 July connected these community-building efforts with the 75th anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention. Children aged 7–13 took part in a Friendship Bracelet-Making Workshop, using creativity as a way to encourage teamwork, interaction and new friendships.

Across the two activities, 20 children participated. Beyond the creative skills developed, the sessions offered safe and inclusive spaces where children could interact with others, build confidence and strengthen their sense of belonging within the community.

Looking Ahead: Keeping Protection Close to Children and Families

Strong local coordination and referral mechanisms remain essential to ensure timely support for refugee children and families, including in areas where refugee populations have decreased. Language barriers continue to affect parents' access to information, services and support, while children need clear, age-appropriate information on their rights and available services, particularly during screening procedures. Continued investment in safe, inclusive and structured activities is equally important, providing children with opportunities for creativity, social interaction and peer connection. Together, these efforts can strengthen psychosocial well-being, improve access to protection and help refugee children build a stronger sense of belonging within their communities.



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

Making affordable housing a pathway to stability

New evidence from JRS Romania highlights the barriers refugees face in moving from emergency accommodation towards secure and sustainable housing.

On 17 July, UNHCR joined JRS Romania for the presentation of its advocacy report, Affordable Housing Access for Ukrainian Refugees in Romania, which presented findings and policy recommendations from the SMART UA project. The report highlighted persistent obstacles including financial constraints, limited housing support services, discrimination by landlords, informal rental agreements and language barriers.

The event also showcased approaches that can help refugees move towards greater housing stability, including NGO-led landlord mediation, interpretation services, better integration of existing support and assistance with the transition from emergency accommodation to sustainable housing. Stakeholders identified opportunities to expand mediation programmes, strengthen communication with refugee communities, support refugee-led initiatives and promote a rights-based approach to housing.

These recommendations are increasingly important as emergency accommodation options decline and refugees face greater pressure to secure housing independently.

Essential support reaches those who need it most

While needs continue to evolve, essential assistance remains an important safety net for newly arrived and vulnerable refugees.

In July, UNHCR continued its partnership with the General Directorate of Social Assistance of Bucharest Municipality (DGASMB) to provide essential non-food items (NFIs) to forcibly displaced people in Bucharest. Fourteen items, including mattresses and undergarments, were distributed to five people, helping address immediate needs while preserving dignity.

This targeted assistance builds on a much larger nationwide response. By the end of July 2026, UNHCR and its partners had supported 112,888 unique individuals with NFIs since 2023. Over the same period, 368,447 core relief items (CRIs) were distributed through a network of more than 35 partners delivering UNHCR assistance across Romania.



BASIC NEEDS



RomExpo: connecting immediate needs with longer-term inclusion

Growing attendance at the UNHCR Community Centre reflects continued demand for practical support, while highlighting the importance of helping refugees navigate national services.

Visitor numbers at the UNHCR Community Centre at RomExpo increased in July compared with the previous month, stabilising at consistently higher levels throughout the second half of July. Refugees continued to seek assistance across a range of basic needs, with particularly strong demand for legal counselling, accommodation guidance and Temporary Protection-related support.

Alongside individual assistance, the Community Centre hosted information sessions designed to connect refugees with social benefits and available services. By improving access to existing systems and supporting greater self-reliance, these activities aim to promote sustainable solutions and gradually reduce dependence on humanitarian basic needs assistance.

Looking Ahead: Addressing a Growing Accommodation Gap

Access to safe and affordable accommodation remains one of the most pressing basic needs for Ukrainian refugees, particularly as new arrivals continue while humanitarian response capacity declines. Although the Government programme provides financial assistance to newly arrived refugees for their first three months in Romania, significant payment delays can leave families facing financial hardship, while cases of financial insecurity and eviction continue to be reported.

At the same time, accommodation options have declined significantly, with most temporary accommodation centres operating at full capacity and the temporary closure of the Pallady night shelter further reducing emergency capacity. Solutions are particularly limited for newly arrived refugees, single individuals and vulnerable families unable to meet accommodation costs. With humanitarian organisations also facing reduced operational capacity, stronger pathways towards affordable and sustainable housing will be increasingly important.



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Building Safety and Resilience for Refugee Women and Girls in Romania



©PARENTIS



14

PARTNERS
appealing



28,000

PEOPLE TARGETED
in 2026



\$2.5M

FINANCIAL REQUEST
in 2026

Total appeal

● Funded

● Unfunded

\$2.5M

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 Tinerii UNFPA | UNHCR | UNICEF

A safe space for reflection, resilience and connection

Community-based activities are creating supportive spaces where refugee women can strengthen their emotional well-being, recognise personal resources and connect with others.

On 21 July, UNHCR hosted a Women's Club session at the RomExpo Community Centre, facilitated by a Ukrainian psychologist. Titled "Bringing Order to Our Thoughts", the session offered participants a safe and supportive environment for self-reflection and psychosocial well-being.

Using the "Wheel of Balance" technique, participants reflected on different areas of their lives and explored the challenges they currently face. Metaphorical cards provided another tool for identifying personal resources and considering possible pathways towards positive change. Beyond the individual exercises, the session created opportunities for connection and mutual support, helping participants strengthen self-awareness and resilience.

Looking Ahead

Continued access to safe and supportive environments remains important for refugee women's recovery and emotional well-being. Expanding community outreach and peer-support connections can help reach more women, reduce isolation and strengthen pathways towards psychosocial and other specialised support when needed.



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

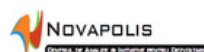
\$10.9M

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 Romania | YMCA

From first jobs to professional careers: tailoring employment support

Individualised employment counselling is helping Ukrainian refugees navigate the Romanian labour market and identify opportunities that reflect both immediate needs and longer-term ambitions.

In July, Jobs for Ukraine continued providing individual employment counselling to Ukrainian refugees with diverse professional backgrounds, language skills and levels of familiarity with the Romanian labour market. Support ranged from preparing and submitting applications to identifying realistic employment pathways and helping candidates assess opportunities against their longer-term professional goals.

For young first-time jobseekers, this included support to apply for positions with major fast-food and hospitality employers. Newly arrived refugees and candidates with limited Romanian or English proficiency were primarily connected with more accessible opportunities in warehousing, manufacturing, production and driving. Meanwhile, candidates with stronger language skills and professional experience pursued more qualified and office-based opportunities in fields including customer support, translation, education, marketing, healthcare, psychology and communications.

This tailored approach reflects the diversity of refugee jobseekers: for some, the priority is securing stable employment quickly, while others need support to translate existing qualifications and professional experience into sustainable career opportunities in Romania.

Connecting Ukrainian refugees with Romania's labour market

National employment data show continued engagement with public employment services, while also highlighting the importance of language learning and targeted labour-market support.

According to the National Agency for Employment (ANOFM), 25,247 Ukrainian citizens had registered with territorial employment agencies between the beginning of the war in Ukraine and 22 June 2026. Of these, 3,440 were placed in employment through ANOFM services.

ANOFM also reported that 295 Ukrainian citizens had participated in Romanian-language courses, while 173 registered Ukrainian citizens had received or were receiving unemployment benefits. Beyond individual services, ANOFM's territorial structures organise job fairs aligned with labour-market demand, including events targeting particular occupations, sectors and vulnerable groups.



LIVELIHOODS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION



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These services provide an important bridge between refugees and the national labour market, complementing the individualised employment counselling and advisory support provided by humanitarian and civil society partners.

Looking Ahead

Employment support must continue to respond to two distinct needs: rapid access to stable entry-level work for newly arrived refugees and more specialised job matching for people with qualifications and transferable professional experience.

Romanian-language limitations remain a significant barrier, particularly for those seeking opportunities beyond warehousing, manufacturing, cleaning, kitchen work and other entry-level occupations.

Continued individualised counselling and Romanian-language learning will be essential to improve applications, address language and documentation barriers and support informed choices around employment and entrepreneurship. Better matching of candidates' skills and experience with suitable opportunities can help refugees move beyond immediate employment needs towards greater self-reliance and longer-term socio-economic inclusion.

Spotlight story

Oleksandra's Story REBUILDING THROUGH MUSIC



Oleksandra, musician and music educator

“My name is Oleksandra, and music has always been at the heart of my life. Since I was 16, I have worked with children and adults, teaching music and helping them develop their artistic talents. Before the war, I was active at the Children's Music School and the Music College in Ukraine. But the conflict changed everything. I had to leave my country and start over in a place where I didn't know the language and had no familiar reference points.

In Romania, I found support and guidance at Katya Hub. Here, I was able to reintegrate professionally and continue doing what I love. With the help of the Katya Hub team and UNHCR, I gained access to Romanian language courses and support to translate the documents needed to have my qualifications recognised. I also received guidance on writing my CV, searching for jobs, and preparing for interviews. Practical support, from scheduling interviews to arranging translation services, helped me navigate a completely new professional environment.

Thanks to this support, I have been able to resume my work and share music with children once again. At Katya Hub, I organised a “music therapy” programme for children aged 2 to 4, offering them joy, a means of expression, and an opportunity for development. I also helped organise several concerts where Ukrainian children could perform, maintaining their connection to their culture and traditions. These events, held in public spaces in the heart of the city, brought people together through the universal language of music.

For the second consecutive year, I was invited to Bucharest to attend an event marking the commemoration of the invasion of Ukraine. Here, alongside ambassadors, ministers, and representatives of countries supporting Ukraine, I had the chance to share my story, and the stories of others like me, who are working to rebuild their lives.

Oleksandra's journey shows how access to language learning, recognition of qualifications and individualised employment support can help refugees move beyond immediate displacement, regain professional independence and use their skills to contribute to the communities around them.

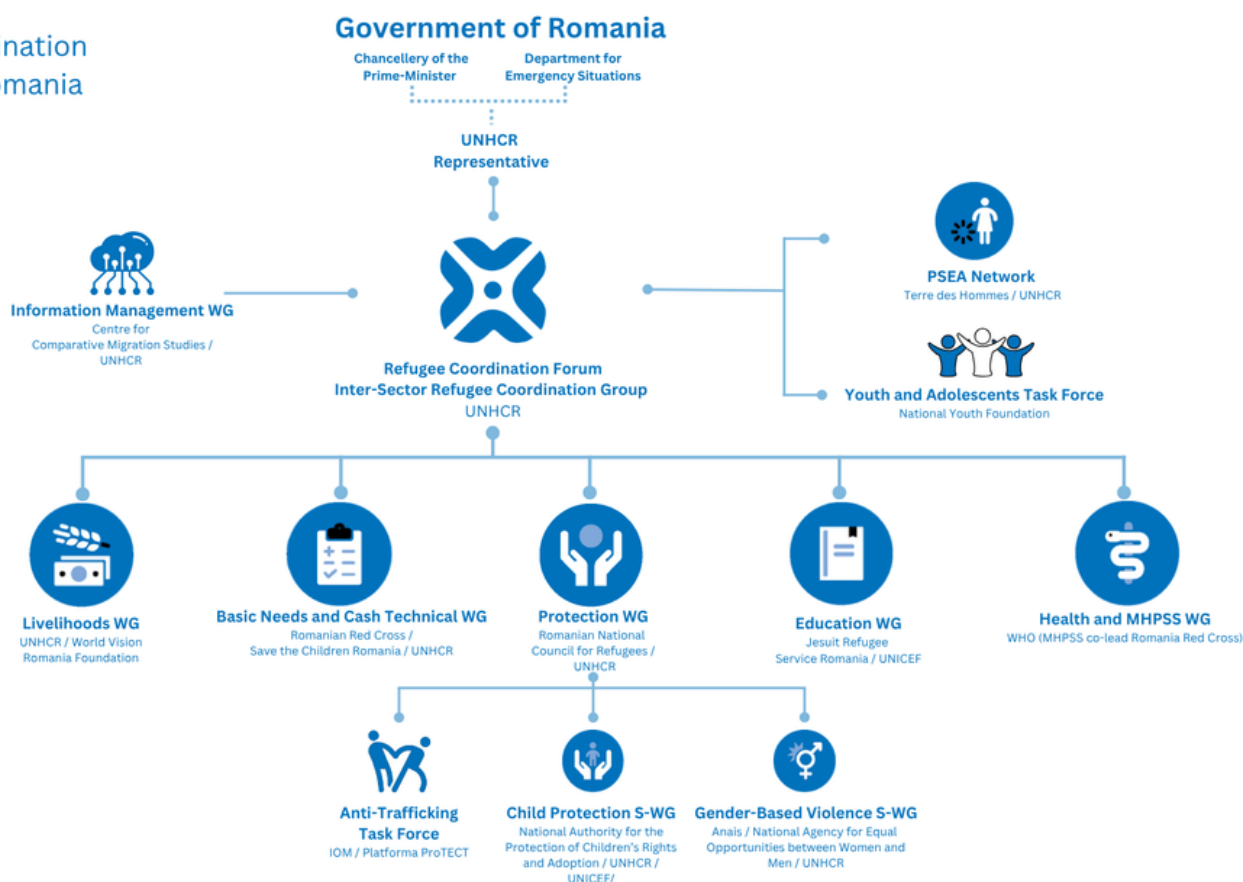
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Music has always been a language that unites us, and thanks to the support I received, I can continue my mission: bringing hope, joy, and a sense of normalcy to those around me.

- Oleksandra

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](#)