

## ROMANIA

### Weekly Update #218

19 October 2026

#### Key figures

**223,808 refugees** obtained temporary protection and refugee status in Romania (as of end August 2026).

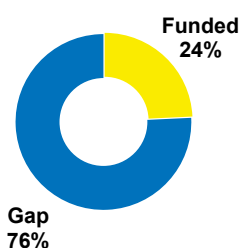
**2,350 refugees** supported with community-based protection activities in 2026.

**7,940 refugees** provided with protection counselling services and legal support in 2026.

**2,401 refugees** supported with livelihood and employment services in 2026.

“UNHCR’s community event brought us together and inspired us to live with kindness, joy, and enthusiasm, to enjoy music and movement, and to cherish every moment. May we continue to spread kindness, build meaningful connections, and inspire one another to do good!”  
*Iryna, a 68-year-old refugee from Oleksandriia, Ukraine, living in Constanța, Romania.*

**UNHCR Romania Funding Situation**  
 As of 30 September 2026  
**\$23.4 million**  
 UNHCR’s funding requirements 2026



#### Highlights

On 15 October, a refugee football team represented Romania at the [UEFA Unity EURO Cup 2026](#) held in Florence, Italy, reaching the semi-finals of the European tournament organised in partnership with UNHCR. The tournament brought together 22 teams to celebrate inclusion through football. Romania’s team delivered an outstanding performance, winning five matches to secure a place in the semi-finals. The team was selected following the “Together on the Pitch” tournament held in Bucharest in June to mark World Refugee Day. The competition brought refugees from Ukraine and Afghanistan, authorities (GII and DGASMB) and civil society (CNRR) together, demonstrating how sport can build connections, foster mutual understanding and strengthen a sense of belonging. Romania’s participation, supported by the Romanian Football Federation and UNHCR, highlighted how football can break down barriers and promote inclusive communities. The event and the team’s result [were widely reported in the national press](#).



On 15 October, a refugee football team represented Romania at the Unity EURO Cup 2026 held in Florence, Italy. Photos: UNHCR

On 12 October, UNHCR met with the Rector of the Alexandru Ioan Cuza Police Academy, Police Quaestor Cătălin Andruș and senior Academy Officers, to renew and strengthen institutional cooperation. The meeting reaffirmed both institutions’ shared commitment to collaboration and the common values underpinning their partnership. Discussions focused on equipping future law enforcement professionals with the knowledge and practical skills needed to address contemporary challenges in asylum and refugee protection. Both institutions agreed to jointly design activities for the areas of cooperation contained in the Memorandum of Understanding. The UNHCR Representative was honoured to attend the Oath Ceremony of first year students of the Academy on 16 October.



On 12 October, UNHCR met with the Rector of the Alexandru Ioan Cuza Police Academy, Police Quaestor Cătălin Andruș. Photo: UNHCR

#### Response and Advocacy

On 17 and 18 October, UNHCR participated in a workshop on women’s rights, well-being and social inclusion organized by UNHCR grant partner, the Arab Cultural Centre, a refugee-led organization in Sibiu. The event brought together refugee and migrant women, civil society representatives and experts to discuss barriers to accessing rights, services and opportunities in Romania. UNHCR delivered a session on refugee protection, rights and available support mechanisms. Discussions highlighted challenges including language barriers, limited employment opportunities, difficulties navigating administrative procedures and weak social networks. The workshop encouraged refugee and migrant women to identify their priorities and contribute to community-led initiatives.

On 14 October, UNHCR, with the support of NGO Novapolis, organized a mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) activity in Constanța for 23 participants. An interactive session explored warning signs in relationships, healthy relationships, personal boundaries and emotional well-being, followed by an art workshop encouraging social interaction and community connections. On 15 October, NGO Red Panda facilitated an autumn-themed creative workshop at UNHCR’s Community Centre at RomExpo, in Bucharest, giving refugees an opportunity to express their creativity and connect in a welcoming environment. On 16 October, some 60 refugees from Ukraine and members of the Romanian host community from community NGO Niciodată Singur gathered in Constanța for “Rhythms That Unite: Culture Without Borders”. Through performances and interactive workshops featuring Ukrainian, Bulgarian and Moldovan dances, participants celebrated cultural diversity and strengthened social cohesion.

*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 2026 programmes. For more details: [Romania Funding Update – 2026](#)*