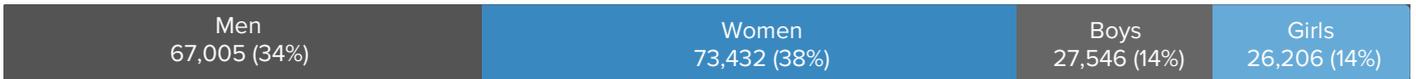


Inter-Agency Newsletter

REFUGEE COORDINATION FORUM | ROMANIA

194,189 Temporary Protection holders in Romania
(as of 30 March 2025)



8.6 million border crossings from
Ukraine and Moldova since February 2022

965,750 third-country nationals arrived
in Romania from Ukraine and Moldova

7.6 million Ukrainians arrived
in Romania from Ukraine and
Moldova

Current funding level

42

TOTAL APPEALING PARTNERS

\$82.8 M

TOTAL APPEALED BUDGET



\$10.3 M

TOTAL FUNDING
RECEIVED

\$72.5 M

TOTAL
FUNDING GAP

Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion
Protection
Basic Needs
Public Health and MHPSS
Education
Child Protection
Gender-based Violence

| Received | Appealed |
|----------|----------|
| \$1.7M | \$16.5 M |
| \$3.7M | \$16.2M |
| \$1.4M | \$15.7M |
| \$1.5M | \$10.1M |
| \$0.7M | \$9.3M |
| \$0.8M | \$8.7M |
| \$0.4M | \$6.3M |

2025 Achievements



Support for Public
Authorities

163

personnel trained



Strengthening
Social Cohesion

1,309

participants from both refugee and
host communities in initiatives and
events



Romanian courses
for integration

2,001

people provided with
Romanian languages classes

People reached by sector



Protection
9,051



Education
1,082



Basic Needs
18,663



Child Protection
4,464



Health and Nutrition
4,013



Cash Assistance
840



Gender-Based Violence
3,028



MHPSS
3,275



Livelihoods and Socio-
Economic Inclusion
3,334

Operational context

UN agencies and NGOs work together in support of the national refugee response under the framework of the Refugee Response Plan (RRP), through the Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF), and sectoral working groups.

Since 24 February 2022, more than 6.3 million people from Ukraine have sought refuge across Europe. As of 30 March 2025, the Romanian General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI) reported that 182,948 Ukrainians and third country nationals obtained temporary protection in Romania, which provides access to healthcare, education, and the labour market.

Since the beginning of the year, many of the 42 RRP partners have reported operational disruptions, mainly due to funding constraints. Over the past three months, informal enquiries revealed that 33 per cent of RRP partners have delayed implementation of programs, 31 per cent have reduced services, 17 per cent have suspended activities. One partner ceased operations entirely. Given the informal nature of data collection, the Inter-Agency team launched a more formal survey and funding tracking exercise, with results expected by mid-April. The results of the survey will help to inform fundraising efforts to ensure continued provision of essential support to refugees.

On 5 March, members of the Suceava Refugee Inclusion Working Group comprising of local authorities, UN agencies, and NGOs held a meeting at which the Centre for Comparative Migration Studies (CSCM) presented the findings of the Suceava area-based assessment, providing a comprehensive overview of the humanitarian situation in the county. The data collection for this exercise was a joint effort by several members of the Working Group including local social services, child protection services, and NGOs. The Working Group also updated local service

mapping and discussed plans. Key action points were the formation of a taskforce to draft terms of reference and a work plan, and the initiation of discussions on electing a local co-chair for the working group. These efforts will facilitate coordination of the working group, promote localization, and facilitate timely referrals and access to services, as members strive to continue supporting the inclusion of refugees.

On March 5, Constanța Prefecture held a quarterly Local Integration Team meeting bringing together representatives from public institutions, including the County School Inspectorate (ISJ), Department of Social Services (DAS), General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC), General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI) for Constanța and Galați counties, the local Health Insurance House (CAS), the National Employment Agency (AJOFM), National Agency for Payments and Social Inspection (AJPIS), the Department of Public Health, and the Border Police. NGOs and UN agencies present included CNRR, JRS Romania, UNHCR, World Vision. Discussions focused on the integration of refugees and migrants in Constanța County. As a result of the meeting, a series of follow-up actions were initiated, including coordination with CAS to improve refugees' access to medical services—particularly through clarifying procedures in the Single Integrated Information System (SIUI) and raising awareness among family doctors. Local authorities and NGOs also reinforced joint efforts to address labour market access barriers and to support school inclusion of refugee children through remedial education and community-based activities.

On 31 March, Galați Prefecture hosted a Local Integration Team meeting with local authorities together with JRS Romania, and UNHCR. Each institution shared updates on child protection, access to health services, social benefits, employment, and integration activities. Key concerns included the lack of access to benefits for unaccompanied minors due to legislative gaps, limited access to healthcare for individuals under temporary protection, and the continued challenges refugees face in entering the labour market. Despite having professional backgrounds, many struggle to find employment due to language barriers, lack of document recognition, and limited job opportunities that match their qualifications. In response, local stakeholders agreed to strengthen institutional coordination through the Local Support Team framework. DAS and DGASPC will collaborate to facilitate access to social benefits for unaccompanied minors, and a follow-up meeting will be organized by the end of April to discuss the organization of Romanian language courses in Galați and the scheduling of a certification exam to support access to education and employment.



The 8th Refugee Inclusion Working Group taking place at UNHCR Field Office in Suceava

Spotlight story - RRP partner Save the Children Romania

As Russia's war in Ukraine continues and the geopolitical context remains uncertain, Romania's refugee response plays a crucial role in providing integration support to the 179,820 people recorded on Romanian territory.

Marking three years of refugee response efforts, Save the Children continues its programs through counselling centres, serving as one-stop shops where refugees can access essential services. As the response shifts towards long-term integration and due to the ongoing uncertainty and the increasing likelihood that refugees will remain in Romania, Save the Children has supported 949 people, including 548 children with Romanian language classes between January and March to help them build sustainable livelihoods.

One of the success stories from this initiative is the B. family. H.B. and her family arrived in Romania in December 2022. Having fled the war in Ukraine, they found themselves in a new country, navigating an unfamiliar language and system while trying to rebuild their lives. For H.B., her husband T.B., and their son A.B., the transition was daunting. A.B., a dedicated music student in Ukraine, faced difficulties enrolling in a Romanian school that could support his passion for the flute. Meanwhile, H.B. and T.B. had to overcome bureaucratic hurdles, particularly regarding their health needs as all 3 members of the family are diagnosed with diabetes.

Through the recommendation of an acquaintance, H.B. discovered Save the Children. The organization became a pillar of their integration journey, offering essential Romanian language classes that opened new opportunities for the family. These courses gave H.B. the confidence to navigate Romania's administrative processes, successfully submitting the necessary documents for the disability classification of her husband.



Learning Romanian also enabled her to seek employment, helping her secure a part-time job with hopes of finding full-time work to stabilize her family's future.

For A.B., language support facilitated his adaptation to school life in Romania. With improved communication skills, he integrated more easily into his academic environment. Today, he is a student at a music school in Bucharest, continuing his musical education and keeping his dreams of becoming a professional artist.

Save the Children's intervention in the refugee response is about more than providing services—it is about empowerment. By equipping Ukrainian families with the tools to communicate, they took meaningful steps toward independence and stability. The Romanian language classes enabled many refugee women like H.B. to advocate for their family, building skills for an independent living, especially at a moment when humanitarian aid is cut.

Protection

Working Group co-chairs

Romanian National Council for Refugees

UNHCR

Appealing sectoral partners

- ADPARE
- City Makers
- East European Institute for Reproductive Health (EEIRH)
- FONSS
- HIAS
- 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
- Sensiblu Foundation
- Sibiu Community Foundation
- Terre des Hommes
- Tineri Pentru Tineri
- UNHCR
- UNICEF
- World Vision Romania

Coordinated Action Against Misinformation

Recognizing the harmful impact of misinformation—particularly around temporary protection status and financial assistance—the Government of Romania, through the Department for Emergency Situations (DSU) and the Prime Minister’s Chancellery, has joined forces with the Protection Working Group (PWG) co-chairs, IOM, and key communication actors to launch a coordinated response mechanism. This coordination connects call centre managers and social media administrators to swiftly identify, clarify, and respond to circulating misinformation, helping ensure that refugees receive accurate, timely information.

In tandem, improvements are underway to Romania’s official refugee information portal, www.protectieucraina.gov.ro. Supported by DSU, CNRR, and UNHCR, the upgraded platform will better respond to the practical information needs of refugee communities by offering clearer, more accessible, and regularly updated content.

Securing Continued Support Through Policy Action

On 20 March, Romania reaffirmed its commitment to displaced Ukrainians by enacting Emergency Ordinance No. 15/2025, an amendment to EO No. 96/2024. The measure extends financial assistance through December 2025, offering up to three months of support to new arrivals and maintaining aid for vulnerable individuals in government-approved accommodations. In parallel, Government Decision No. 1178/2024 was issued to clarify procedures, reduce confusion, and streamline delivery of this extended support.

At the Protection Working Group meeting on 25 March, partners validated the 2025 workplan and reviewed new initiatives. IOM presented its plan to expand the national network of migrant and refugee integration centres to additional locations, including Constanța and key border areas—broadening refugee access to critical services. During the session, Mr. Mihai Lupu, Chief of Cabinet at DSU, emphasized the government’s determination to improve communication with refugee communities and cited recent high-level consultations at the Prime Minister’s Chancellery focused on countering misinformation.

Advocating for Housing Inclusion

In Sector 1 of Bucharest, local authorities proposed a public debate on revising social housing criteria. While the draft legislation recognizes individuals with international protection, it excludes people with temporary protection, creating a significant barrier for many refugees. The Basic Needs Working Group, with support from the Protection Working Group, is leading advocacy efforts to ensure equal access by calling for the removal of legal and administrative barriers and the full inclusion of forcibly displaced individuals in social housing frameworks.

Building Community Connections

To promote social cohesion and community integration, CNRR organized seven community events in Bucharest, Galați, Giurgiu, Rădăuți, and Timișoara. These gatherings engaged around 90 asylum seekers and refugees from reception centres and local areas, offering cultural exchange, practical support, and opportunities for social connection. These events represent a vital part of the broader integration strategy, helping build resilience and long-term inclusion for displaced communities.

Child Protection

Sub-Working Group co-chairs

UNHCR
UNICEF

Appealing sectoral partners

- ADPARE
- Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR)
- City Makers
- East European Institute for Reproductive Health (EIRH)
- FONSS
- HIAS
- IOM
- JRS Romania
- MALVA
- Metropolitan Agency for Durable Development Brasov
- Migrant Integration Centre Brasov
- National Youth Foundation
- Necuvinte
- Novapolis
- PATRIR
- Plan International
- RomaJust
- Save the Children Romania
- Sensiblu Foundation
- Sibiu Community Foundation
- Terre des Hommes
- Tineri Pentru Tineri
- UNHCR
- UNICEF
- World Vision Romania

Ongoing Challenges in Protecting Displaced Children

UNHCR conducted a monitoring visit to DGASPC Ilfov to assess the protection response for Ukrainian refugee children, particularly those who are unaccompanied or separated. The visit revealed persistent challenges, including difficulties in tracking vulnerable families due to frequent relocations and unreported changes of address. Resource limitations were evident, particularly in supporting children with disabilities who face bureaucratic delays in obtaining certification and accessing specialized therapies. Limited access to inclusive activities and a rise in bullying incidents in schools highlighted the urgent need for more integrated psychosocial and educational support. In response, local authorities have started deploying psychologists to schools as a proactive step.

Building Local Capacity through Governance Models

To reinforce local governance in child protection, UNICEF hosted a collaborative workshop with DGASPC representatives from Braşov, Constanţa, Iaşi, Prahova, and Suceava. The session focused on co-developing the Blue Grid local governance model, which aims to enhance coordination and service delivery for vulnerable children. Participants discussed local needs and shared feedback on the

Tracking Vulnerable Children through Improved Data

Between January and March 2025, the National Authority for the Protection of Child's Rights and Adoption (NAPCRA) registered 625 unaccompanied and separated children using

the PRIMERO case management system. This system provides a critical foundation for guiding targeted interventions and delivering services to the most at-risk children affected by displacement.

Community-Based Support Initiatives by World Vision

World Vision played a central role in strengthening child protection systems at the community level. In Bucharest, Braşov, Constanţa, Iaşi, and Suceava, the organization delivered weekly child protection sessions, parental training on abuse prevention, and mental health and psychosocial support led by Ukrainian-speaking psychologists. Over 140 children and 90 parents benefited from this comprehensive support, which also included assistance in accessing inclusive education, social benefits, and referrals to child protection services. To institutionalize these efforts, World Vision formalized partnerships with DGASPC offices in Sector 1 Bucharest, Cluj, Iaşi, and Suceava to improve coordination and early identification of child protection risks.

Reaching Vulnerable Children and Families through Save the Children

Save the Children reached 881 children across Bucharest, Baia Mare, Galaţi, Iaşi, and Suceava with a wide range of child protection services. These included counselling and information sessions on children's rights and entitlements, as well as individualized case management. Parenting workshops based on the Safe Families methodology supported caregivers in preventing abuse and neglect by strengthening family resilience and promoting safer environments for children.

Gender-Based Violence

Working Group co-chairs

Anais

National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men
UNHCR

Appealing sectoral partners

- ADPARE
- Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR)
- City Makers
- East European Institute for Reproductive Health (EEIRH)
- FONSS
- HIAS
- IOM
- JRS Romania
- MALVA
- Metropolitan Agency for Durable Development Brasov
- Migrant Integration Centre Brasov
- National Youth Foundation
- Necuvinte
- Novapolis
- PATRIR
- Plan International
- RomaJust
- Save the Children Romania
- Sensiblu Foundation
- Sibiu Community Foundation
- Terre des Hommes
- Tineri Pentru Tineri
- UNHCR
- UNICEF
- World Vision Romania

Commemorating International Women’s Day

Throughout March, organizations across Romania celebrated the resilience and contributions of refugee women, using International Women’s Day (8 March) as a platform to promote gender equality and long-term protection commitments. Inclusive events were held in multiple regions, creating safe and welcoming spaces for refugee women to connect, share experiences, and strengthen support networks.

In Constanța, 39 women from Ukraine and Romania gathered for a celebration hosted by the Dr. Max Foundation (formerly Sensiblu Foundation) and UNHCR, where participants reflected on empowerment and leadership. At the Emergency Transit Centre in Timișoara, 12 refugee women from Niger, Syria, and Yemen took part in discussions exploring womanhood, digital skills, and role models, with a focus on confidence-building and resilience. In Timișoara, the AIDRom Multifunctional Centre, in partnership with UNHCR, facilitated a support group for seven Ukrainian women who engaged in artistic expression and open dialogue about the importance of community in navigating emotional challenges. Similar gatherings in Suceava, organized by local associations and refugee-led organizations, brought together 39 women to share sweets, stories, and games, fostering solidarity in displacement.

As one participant shared during a group session in Timișoara: “Every week, I am welcomed with warmth and



Marking International Women’s Day in Constanța by UNHCR and Dr. Max Foundation at the Constanța County Library loan N. Roman

positivity, which greatly helps my mental health... This support offers me the emotional strength I need to face the challenges in my life.”

Institutional Strengthening for GBV Response

On 14 March, the National Agency for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men (ANES) and UNHCR met to initiate a joint action plan for 2025 to enhance services and protection for Ukrainian refugees. This strategic partnership focuses on improving Romania’s response to gender-based violence (GBV), including tailored capacity-building for staff from the Department for Emergency Situations (DSU) and 112 hotline operators, refugee awareness sessions on using the national domestic violence hotline, and the translation of protection forms into Ukrainian. Visual materials outlining GBV-related legal protections were also developed, with all efforts aimed at placing survivors at the centre of identification, referral, and care processes.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

Beyond commemorative events, sustained psychosocial care remained a priority. Throughout March, the Dr. Max Foundation supported over 450 Ukrainian refugees through 34 group sessions conducted in Bucharest, Constanța, Râmnicu Vâlcea, and Suceava. These gatherings provided both emotional support and practical information to reduce vulnerabilities. Additionally, 50 refugees received 80 hours of individual psychological counselling, while three beneficiaries were provided with case management support tailored to their specific protection needs.

Creative and Awareness-Raising Activities

As part of the global “Orange Day” campaign to end violence against women and girls, UNHCR’s Field Office in Constanța collaborated with the Dr. Max Foundation to hold a creative workshop for six Ukrainian women. Through art and storytelling, participants reflected on experiences of violence, resilience, and empowerment. In Galați, another session focused specifically on psychological violence, guiding refugee women through real-life case studies and community-based strategies for support and prevention. Interest emerged for follow-up sessions focused on youth and family dynamics, pointing to a growing appetite for deeper engagement on these issues.

Education

Working Group co-chairs **Jesuit Refugee Service Romania**
UNICEF

Appealing sectoral partners

- ADPARE
- Association of Ukrainian Teachers in Romania
- City Makers
- Civic Rădăuți Association
- Help Ukrainians
- IOM
- JRS Romania
- MALVA
- Metropolitan Agency for Durable Development Brasov
- National Youth Foundation
- Necuvinte
- Novapolis
- PATRIR
- Plan International
- Roma Education Fund
- RomaJust
- Save the Children Romania
- SECS
- SERA
- Sibiu Community Foundation
- Terre des Hommes
- Tineri Pentru Tineri
- UNICEF
- YMCA Romania

Strengthening Access to Formal Education

In March, RRP partners continued their collective efforts to ensure that Ukrainian refugee children and their families have meaningful access to education across Romania. These initiatives addressed school enrolment, language learning, psychosocial support, and extracurricular engagement—foundational pillars for integration and long-term stability.

UNICEF Romania worked closely with national and local authorities, including the School Inspectorate of the Municipality of Bucharest (ISMB), to streamline the enrolment process. At the RomExpo refugee hub, UNICEF supported families with documentation translation and helped them navigate school registration for the preparatory class period (28 March–6 May). Secondary School No. 95 stood out as a model of inclusion, where Ukrainian children are successfully integrating—speaking Romanian, participating in afterschool programs, and receiving validated equivalency certifications. Thirty-five cases have already been approved, with 17 more in process.

The Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR) further supported 187 refugees through educational counselling across six cities, helping families enrol children in school and kindergarten, manage equivalency documentation, and access other relevant services.

Expanding Language Acquisition for Inclusion

Language learning remained a top priority across multiple partner organizations. JRS Romania led robust efforts in this area, deploying 22 language teachers across six learning centres in Bucharest, Constanța, and Brașov. In addition to its in-person language classes and afterschool programs for 244 children, JRS also organized daily Romanian classes in Constanța and Galați and launched online Romanian language courses for 500 children and an additional 200 engaged at the Pipera Hub and RomExpo playground. In collaboration with the County School Inspectorate of Constanța, JRS coordinated language proficiency testing for over 100 children, leading to diploma issuance for 42 students, many of whom are now enrolled at School No. 95 in Bucharest.

Save the Children Romania complemented these efforts with language classes in Romanian and English as part of its inclusive education programs. These reached 316 children across Bucharest, Baia Mare, Galați, Iași, and Suceava. Language learning was paired with academic support, including homework help and remedial activities.

CNRR contributed to language acquisition by distributing Romanian language manuals to NGO partners Novapolis and AIDRom, supporting up to 200 young learners in improving their communication skills and educational engagement.

Supporting Children and Parents Beyond the Classroom

UNICEF, in partnership with NGOs such as Step-by-Step, HOLTIS, and JRS Romania, provided complementary services to enhance learning outcomes and family well-being. Sixteen play, learning, and parenting hubs were operated in cities including Bucharest, Braşov, Cluj, Constanţa, Tulcea, and Vâlcea County. Parenting education sessions, delivered by 177 trained educators, indirectly benefited more than 1,000 children by strengthening caregiving practices at home.

JRS Romania also prioritized emotional and academic well-being by involving two psychologists and school counsellors in its centres. These professionals helped mediate between families and schools, ensuring children received individualized support. In Bucharest, early learning sessions under the “One Proposal” project reached 60 preschoolers.

Save the Children extended its services to younger children and their families, supporting 94 school-age children and 44 preschoolers through educational centres and in-school programs, including English language classes, homework help, and remedial and afterschool support for refugee and vulnerable children in Bucharest, Baia Mare, Galaţi, Iaşi, and Suceava. The organization also facilitated parental involvement, helping caregivers better support their children’s educational journeys.

Education as a Bridge to Stability and Belonging

Together, these efforts by UNICEF, JRS, CNRR, Save the Children, and their partners demonstrate a sustained commitment to inclusive, quality education for children displaced by the war in Ukraine. By investing in both academic and emotional support, these initiatives not only open classroom doors but also foster belonging, community ties, and long-term resilience.

Health and nutrition

Working Group co-chairs

WHO

Romanian Red Cross

Appealing sectoral partners

- Asociația Moaşelor Independente
- Ateliere Fără Frontiere
- City Makers
- East European Institute for Reproductive Health (EIRH)
- FONSS
- IOM
- Metropolitan Agency for Durable Development Brasov
- Migrant Integration Centre Brasov
- Necuvinte
- Novapolis
- PATRIR
- ParentIS
- Plan International
- RomaJust
- SECS
- SERA
- UNFPA
- UNICEF
- WHO
- YMCA Romania

Strengthening Health System Integration

Throughout March, RRP partners continued advancing healthcare access for Ukrainian refugees across Romania, focusing on institutional coordination, reproductive health, and the removal of administrative and linguistic barriers. On 31 March, the World Health Organization (WHO) Romania, with support from the British Embassy in Bucharest, convened a high-level roundtable with stakeholders from the National Insurance House, the College of Physicians, and the General Inspectorate of Immigration. The event addressed challenges in health registration processes and explored ways to reduce administrative burdens for family doctors—an essential step

toward improving equitable access to care for refugee populations.

WHO Romania also led two intensive training sessions (13–14 and 17–19 March) targeting 50 health professionals, psychologists, and integration specialists from seven national immigration centres. These sessions focused on critical areas such as mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), gender-based violence (GBV) response, infectious disease control, and risk communication—ensuring that frontline personnel are better equipped to respond to the complex health needs of displaced communities.

Expanding Access to Health Services

Direct support to healthcare facilities also continued. WHO provided stipends to family doctor clinics in Bucharest, Braşov, Cluj, Constanţa, Galaţi, Sibiu, and Suceava. In March alone, these supported clinics delivered 419 medical consultations to Ukrainian refugees, including 52 essential health consultations and vaccinations.

To ensure culturally appropriate access to services, WHO's network of cultural mediators remained active. In March, they provided individualized guidance to 71 Ukrainian refugees and assisted 44 others in scheduling medical appointments—helping to bridge critical gaps in understanding and trust within the healthcare system.

Breaking Down Language Barriers

Language remained a critical barrier to accessing health services. WHO Romania continued operating its over-the-phone interpretation hotline, which supported 43 medical and psychological consultations in March—including one emergency case. Services covered specialties such as family medicine, cardiology, neurology, gastroenterology, and psychiatry, benefitting both patients and providers in cities like Bucharest, Constanţa, Cluj, Alba, Mureş, and Vâlcea.

Further expanding communication pathways, WHO partnered with the Independent Association of Midwives (AMI) to operate a multilingual hotline. This service provides vital information on topics such as registering with a family doctor, neonatal and postnatal care, and reproductive health. AMI also shared health promotion materials across digital platforms to extend their outreach to refugee communities.

Promoting Reproductive Health and Rights

In the field of sexual and reproductive health, the Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association convened a strategic meeting in Braşov on 28 March. Attended by a Ministry of Health representative and the national SRH working group facilitator, the event focused on the future of Romania's family planning network. Key discussions addressed the 2024–2030 SRH strategy, innovative approaches to hormonal contraception, and increasing HPV vaccination uptake, reinforcing the government's and partners' shared commitment to inclusive, forward-looking healthcare policy.

Challenges and Gaps

Between 10-28 March, the Romanian Red Cross carried out a survey to better understand the needs of Ukrainian refugees. The survey was completed by 822 respondents and the report states that compared to 2023 data, access to health care services for Ukrainian refugees has considerably improved. 65.7 per cent of participants are registered with a family doctor; however, 42.7 per cent suffer from a chronic health condition. When asked about their needs, the Romanian Red Cross identified that 21.2 per cent participants referred to health care services. This represents the second highest need mentioned, the greatest need, mentioned by 41.28 per cent of respondents, being financial aid. By sharing these insights with relevant stakeholders, the Romanian Red Cross aims to promote information and engagement, improve the quality of services, and plan future initiatives.

Basic Needs and Cash

Working Group co-chairs

Save the Children Romania
Romanian Red Cross
UNHCR

Appealing sectoral partners

- ADPARE
- ASSOC
- HIAS
- Habitat for Humanity Romania
- IOM
- JRS Romania
- Necuvinte
- Novapolis
- RomaJust
- Save the Children Romania
- Sensiblu Foundation
- SERA
- Sibiu Community Foundation
- UNHCR

Towards Sustainable Housing Solutions

In March, the [Recommendations for Sustainable Accommodation Centres in Romania \(Romanian version\)](#) was jointly published by the Centre for the Comparative Study on Migration, UNHCR, and the Department for Emergency Situations (DSU). Drawing on assessments of collective accommodation centres in Bucharest, Galați, Iași, Suceava, and Timișoara, the document outlines key challenges—ranging from infrastructure gaps and uncertain funding to service delivery shortfalls—and provides strategic recommendations to improve sustainability, living standards, and preparedness. The report underscores the crucial role that collective centres play in supporting vulnerable refugees unable to achieve self-reliance.

The urgency of sustainable accommodation was reinforced during a high-level meeting on 5 March between State Counsellor Ms. Alina Cimpoiu, DSU, and the UNHCR Representative. Discussions focused on the need for coordinated site assessments and tailored medium- to long-term housing solutions for highly vulnerable refugees, including persons with disabilities and chronic health conditions.

Advocacy for Inclusive Social Housing

On 26 March, the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR) and UNHCR joined a public debate hosted by Sector 1 Town Hall in Bucharest to advocate for more inclusive criteria in social housing allocation. Recommendations emphasized the need to better reflect the circumstances of beneficiaries of international and temporary protection. In line with these efforts, a thematic session of the Basic Needs and Cash Working Group is scheduled for April to align and enhance shelter-related interventions across stakeholders.

Scaling Relief and Financial Assistance

Direct support continued across Romania in March, with UNHCR and partners distributing over 21,500 core relief items (CRIs)—including blankets, mattresses, clothing, and hygiene kits—to more than 13,800 refugees in 15 counties. Since the start of 2024, more than 45,000 CRIs have been delivered to over 25,000 refugees and vulnerable host community members.

Through its Cash for Winterization Programme, UNHCR completed enrolments for nearly 750 vulnerable individuals from Ukraine, each receiving RON 720 (USD 160) per household member. Mobile registration missions reached underserved areas, including a targeted operation in Timișoara that assisted nearly 150 people in western Romania. In addition, the Cash for Emergency Programme, implemented by AIDRom, supported six households facing acute needs such as eviction or family loss. Complementing these efforts, FONSS and UNHCR extended Cash for Rent support to 29 Ukrainian families in Iași to help stabilize their housing situations.

Strengthening Daily Well-being and Social Inclusion

Efforts to enhance daily well-being also progressed. In Târgu Mureș, IOM Romania provided 2,194 hygiene items to 186 refugees, helping safeguard health and dignity. NGO 4Change, with support from UNHCR, distributed hygiene kits and offered individualized social assistance to 32 individuals, including counselling for nine mothers on accessing child allowances. Since 2022, 4Change has supported over 2,400 Ukrainian refugees, offering critical educational and social services while transforming university dormitories at UTCB and Edmond Nicolau collective centres into safe, welcoming spaces for families.

Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion

Working Group co-chairs

World Vision Romania

UNHCR

Appealing sectoral partners

- ADPARE
- Ateliere Fără Frontiere
- City Makers
- Civic Rădăuți Association
- Commit Global
- Drumul Vieții
- HIAS
- Help Ukrainians
- IOM
- JRS Romania
- MALVA
- Metropolitan Agency for Durable Development Brasov
- Migrant Integration Centre Brasov
- National Youth Foundation
- Novapolis
- Plan International
- Project Voyager
- Roma Education Fund
- Sibiu Community Foundation
- UNHCR
- UNICEF
- World Vision Romania
- YMCA Romania

Achievements

March saw a strong push toward strengthening the economic integration and self-reliance of refugees in Romania, with dedicated efforts led by KATYA Hub in Brașov and IOM Romania across its nationwide Migrant Resource Centres (MRCs). At the KATYA Hub in Brașov, over 100 refugees holding Temporary Protection engaged in pre-selection activities as part of tailored employment support. Of these, 74 beneficiaries underwent vocational assessments and career counselling, with 34 receiving personalized one-on-one career sessions. The Hub's targeted intervention on behalf of Heorhii, a refugee at risk of losing his job due to contract changes, resulted in his successful direct employment with the recycling company RetuRO. This not only preserved his job but also created employment opportunities for three additional refugees. Beyond employment services, the Hub supported 69 refugees in enrolling in Romanian language courses, key to successful workplace and community integration, and provided translation support for 21 individuals, easing their access to essential social services.

Simultaneously, IOM Romania continued to advance the socio-economic inclusion of Ukrainians, persons with international protection, and economic migrants through its Migrant Resource Centres. Romanian language courses remained a cornerstone of integration efforts, with 60 adults participating in March. Complementary educational and socio-cultural orientation sessions reached 61 individuals, helping participants better understand Romanian society and civic life. To support labour market integration, IOM facilitated both group and individual job counselling sessions, benefiting 51 Ukrainians in March alone. Refugees also received legal counselling and protection information to enhance their understanding of employment rights and processes.

Recognizing the importance of mental well-being, IOM Romania maintained its commitment to mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). Refugees were offered individual psychological counselling, peer support group sessions, and community-building activities—such as improv theatre shows—aimed at reducing stress, promoting resilience, and fostering social cohesion.

Together, these initiatives highlight a multi-dimensional approach to refugee inclusion—linking employment, language, psychosocial support, and community engagement to empower displaced individuals toward self-sufficiency and long-term integration in Romania.

Learning Romanian: A Key Step to Employment Hindered by Funding Cuts

In March, UNHCR external provider International House Bucharest supported 160 refugees from Ukraine refugees from Ukraine with language classes, physically in Bucharest and Brasov, with online classes being mostly accessed from Sibiu, Constanta, and Suceava. Language acquisition is essential to finding employment and integration in the local community, however, due to funding issues, implementation of the holistic approach adopted by UNHCR with referrals for classes from different NGO partners and follow-up could not continue. In order to find a job, an intermediate is required by employers. Most refugees have a basic level of Romanian language, with 120-180 hours of training needed to reach an intermediate level.

Planting New Seeds: Katerina's Journey from Displacement to Business Vision

My name is Katerina Hrabanova, and I'm originally from Odesa. Before the war, I had a stable life. I worked as an engineer at an electrical engineering company, with a promising career, a home, and a secure future. But everything changed overnight.

When the war broke out, my mother and I were forced to flee Ukraine, leaving behind everything we had built. We chose Romania as our refuge, first staying in Constanța for three months before relocating to Brașov. It was in this new city that my son Mark was born, our beacon of hope and a symbol of a new beginning.

Starting over in a foreign country was overwhelming. I didn't know where to start—how to find a job, understand the legal system, or integrate into a new society. But then I found Katya Hub. More than just support, the team there offered us kindness, guidance, and a renewed sense of purpose.

Through a project implemented with UNHCR, I had the opportunity to attend business development workshops. These sessions inspired me to take a new path. I've always been passionate about sustainable living and fresh, healthy food, so I began exploring the idea of starting a microgreens business. The workshops gave me practical tools in business planning, financial management, and marketing, which helped turn my idea into a tangible goal.

Learning Romanian has also been an essential part of my journey. Thanks to the language courses offered through the program, I've gained the confidence to connect with others and feel less like a visitor, and more like someone who truly belongs.

While I'm still working toward launching my business, I'm excited about the future. This venture will allow me to use my skills, support my family, and contribute to the community that



welcomed us. None of this would have been possible without the people who believed in me and gave me the tools to rebuild.

We're still adjusting, but every day we take another step forward. My husband Alexey and I are raising our son Mark in a place that now feels like home. We are deeply grateful for the kindness and support we've received—it's made all the difference in helping us rebuild our lives with dignity and hope.

To everyone who has helped us along the way: thank you. Your compassion has given us strength. Your support has given us a future.

Cross-Cutting Priorities

Trafficking in Persons

Strategic Coordination and Policy Reform

On 25 March, RRP partners IOM, UNHCR, and UNICEF, alongside representatives from OSCE, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), and various diplomatic missions, participated in a strategic meeting on Romania's National Strategy against Trafficking in Persons (2024–2028). The event was convened by the Interministerial Committee for Strategic Intersectoral Coordination of the Fight against Trafficking in Persons, under the auspices of the Chancellery of the Prime Minister. Discussions focused on strengthening the identification of foreign victims, improving victim referral mechanisms, and ensuring that survivor perspectives inform national policy. Key developments included:

- Stricter sentencing for trafficking-related crimes
- Increased funding for victim assistance services
- Enhancements to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM)
- A renewed focus on targeted prevention, prosecution, and survivor-centred support

Field Engagement and Knowledge Generation

Complementing national policy efforts, the NGO eLiberare participated in the second meeting of the Suzir'ya Regional Child Protection Advisory Group (RCPAG), facilitated by KIND (Kids in Need of Defence) with support from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation. The meeting focused on regional coordination around child protection and trafficking prevention.

As part of its continued advocacy and capacity-building work, eLiberare also released a bilingual exploratory study titled [The Role of Health Professionals in Identifying and Referring Victims of Human Trafficking](#). The study highlights how medical personnel can serve as crucial frontline actors in detecting trafficking indicators and initiating referrals to appropriate support services.

Protection and Inclusion Challenges for Refugees: Advocacy and Action Needed

Access to unemployment benefits

Access to unemployment benefits continues to be challenging for temporary protection holders. The Protection Working Group continues to advocate with County Employment Agencies (AJOFM) and the National Employment Agency (ANOFM) to understand the practical reasons for temporary protection holders who meet legal requirements still not receiving the benefits. According to AJOFM Galați, the reason for lack of access to benefits is the incomplete address in the temporary protection permit despite not being in accordance with legislation. Clarification is being sought from ANOFM.

Access to documentation

Several refugees encountered significant barriers due to Romanian institutions requiring documents from their countries of origin - such as proof of education, criminal records, or pension status. For many refugees, obtaining these documents is extremely difficult or impossible due to political instability or their inability to contact authorities in their home country because of their protection status. These challenges arose in interactions with institutions such as social assistance directorates, schools, universities, local registry offices (for

marriage), and Romanian consulates. CNRR intervened in multiple cases to support beneficiaries in navigating these obstacles and identifying alternative solutions.

Access to healthcare

Refugees evacuated from the Gaza Strip on medical emergency grounds at the end of 2024 and beginning of 2025 face challenges in integrating in Romania despite having been processed through the asylum system and assisted by the Bucharest General Directorate for Social Assistance and Habitat for Humanity, and counselled by CNRR, and volunteers. The specifics of the cases, most of them consisting in one adult with multiple children with at least one child being a medical emergency case, makes it difficult of them to become independent. The solution sought is family reunification, however there are usually restrictions to evacuations of other family members from the region. Several family members arrived in Romania through the coordinated efforts of the General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI) and civil society actors, but others encounter diplomatic or practical challenges. UNHCR and partners are considering ways to provide additional support in consultation with the relevant authorities.

Increased MHPSS needs in the socio-political context

The Dr. Max Foundation reported that the ongoing deterioration of the socio-political context significantly impacted women and adolescents, leading to a heightened demand for psychological support. Many began openly sharing traumatic experiences, witnessing killings, enduring physical and sexual violence, and hiding from bombings, highlighting the deep emotional toll of the conflict. Compounded by anxiety over loved ones still in war zones and the uncertainty surrounding a possible ceasefire, mental health needs have intensified. The key needs identified include increased access to trauma-informed psychological counselling, holistic support for emotional recovery, and stronger referral and case management systems. In response, the organization provided counselling sessions and coordinated referrals and case management services, underscoring the importance of expanding mental health services and inter-agency collaboration to meet the growing psychosocial demands.

Overcoming bureaucratic hurdles in education

As Ukrainian refugee children approach key academic milestones in Romania, challenges related to school enrolment and exam eligibility continue to emerge. Refugee students completing secondary education are currently expected to pass national examinations under the same conditions as their Romanian peers, despite significant gaps in language proficiency and curriculum familiarity. This has placed many students in a vulnerable academic position, prompting ongoing discussions with education authorities to explore inclusive and fair solutions.

A related obstacle involves the bureaucratic requirements for school enrolment. The Department of Equivalence of Study Files at the School Inspectorate of the Municipality of Bucharest (ISMB) mandates that Ukrainian children present a passport for registration—a condition that poses difficulties for families whose children arrived in Romania using alternative identification documents. Many students lack valid passports, which can delay or prevent their enrolment in the national education system.

RRP partners continue to work closely with national and local education authorities to find practical solutions that uphold children's rights to education while addressing the administrative and linguistic barriers that hinder their inclusion. These efforts aim to ensure that refugee children are not left behind and can continue their academic journeys with dignity and support.

Unmet basic needs risk marginalization

Based on their interactions with refugees, members of the Basic Needs and Cash working Group report that refugees in Romania face significant challenges due to the lack of stable accommodation and the severe shortage of financial and human resources to support them, exacerbated by cuts in humanitarian assistance funding. The scarcity of resources limits their ability to meet basic needs, such as food and accommodation, creating an overwhelming sense of insecurity and dependency. This lack of adequate support not only hinders refugees' chances of starting anew but also perpetuates their marginalization in a country already facing its own economic and social challenges.

Addressing the language gap for jobseekers

In March, the challenges surrounding refugee employment and language skills in Romania remained a critical issue. AJOFM Constanța highlighted that many refugees, particularly those with limited proficiency in Romanian or other international languages like English, face significant barriers to both employment and communication with potential employers. This language gap severely limits their ability to find stable jobs, especially in sectors that match their educational qualifications.

Local civil society organizations, in collaboration with international entities, have been working alongside state bodies like AJOFM to address these gaps in language education and employment opportunities. While there have been localized improvements through advocacy and partnership efforts, the need for systemic changes is becoming increasingly clear. A key area of focus is the expansion of state-run adult education programs, which should be made accessible to all refugees, especially given the high demand. Additionally, improving coordination between government agencies and civil society organizations (CSOs) is crucial to avoid overlapping services and ensure more efficient use of limited funds.

Moreover, addressing the needs of refugees, especially women, has been a priority. This includes expanding access to childcare services, which would help refugee women participate more fully in the workforce. There is also a growing need to tackle workplace discrimination, which remains a barrier for many refugees seeking to integrate into the labour market.

While language classes offered by state-run authorities like AJOFM and ISJs are considered the most sustainable option, they are not available in all counties, and often do not meet demand. Additionally, these programs are sometimes paid (around EUR 100 per module per person), making them less accessible to vulnerable groups, including refugee jobseekers. These challenges underscore the need for more widespread, affordable, and inclusive solutions to improve labour market inclusion for refugees in Romania.

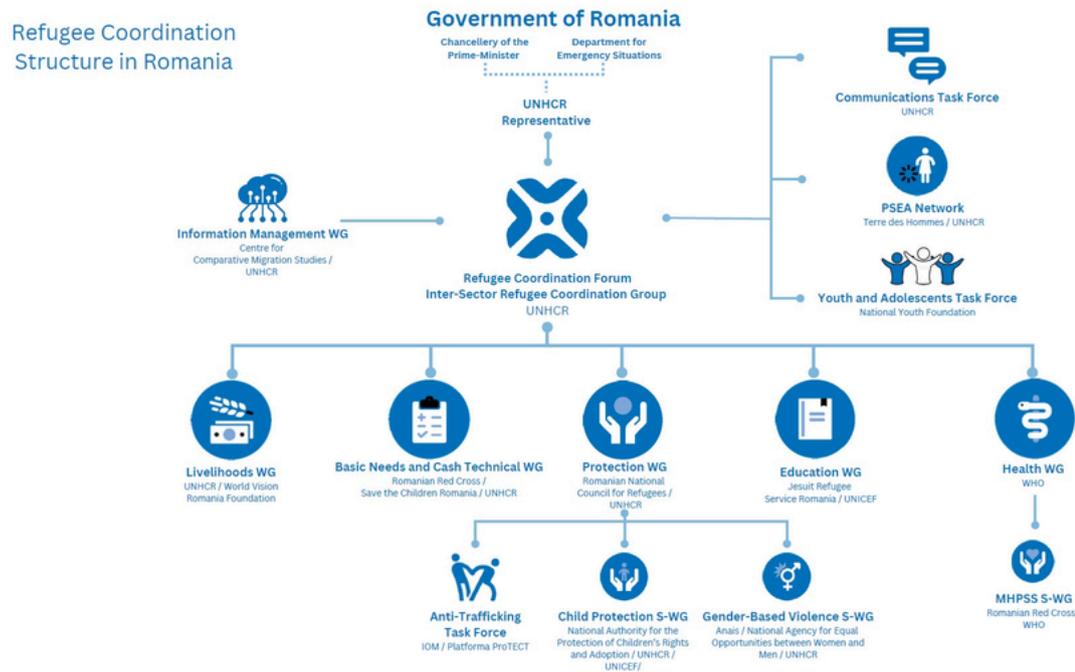
Funding challenges

NGO ANAIS currently lacks dedicated funds for projects supporting Ukrainian refugees but remains committed to the community. The organization continues to offer its headquarters as a space for refugees to meet, organize, and support each other, fostering solidarity and autonomy. While actively seeking new funding sources for future support, the association is dedicated to improving the situation of Ukrainian refugees through available resources and initiatives.

NGO Necuvinte raised concerns regarding the Edmond Nicolau Centre for Displaced Persons from Ukraine, located in Sector 2, Bucharest. Since 2022, the organization has been actively involved in supporting Ukrainian refugees, and since

2023, it has operated a “Safe Space for Women and Girls” within the centre. This space has provided continuous services related to gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health, and social and educational support. Necuvinte is currently the only NGO with a permanent presence at the centre. With refugee funding drastically decreasing, the situation has caused great distress among its vulnerable residents, including elderly individuals, pregnant women, mothers of children with disabilities, and people with limited financial means. Many face the risk of returning to unsafe conditions in Ukraine, including exposure to violence or abusive relationships. UNHCR is currently involved in ongoing discussions with authorities and stakeholders and has invited Necuvinte to be an active partner in identifying sustainable solutions for the vulnerable refugees accommodated in Edmond Nicolau Centre.

Working in partnership



In 2025, the Inter-Agency platform comprises of the following 42 appealing partners implementing humanitarian activities in Romania for refugees from Ukraine:

[ADPARE](#) | [Asociația Moșelor Independente](#) | [ASSOC](#) | [Association of Ukrainian Teachers in Romania](#) | [Ateliere Fără Frontiere](#) | [City Makers](#) | [Civic Rădăuți Association](#) | [CNRR](#) | [Commit Global](#) | [Drumul Vieții](#) | [EEIRH](#) | [FONSS](#) | [Habitat for Humanity](#) | [Help Ukrainians](#) | [HIAS](#) | [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](#)