Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

April 2025

Inter-Agency Newsletter

REFUGEE COORDINATION FORUM | ROMANIA

184,414 Temporary Protection holders in Romania (as of 30 April 2025)

Men	Women	Boys	Girls
67,895 (35%)	73,952 (38%)	27,666 (14%)	26,305 (13%)

Dissagregation by TP permits issued

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

12%

$10.3 M
TOTAL FUNDING RECEIVED

$72.5 M
TOTAL FUNDING GAP

	Received	Appealed
Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion	$1.7M	$16.5 M
Protection	$3.7M	$16.2M
Basic Needs	$1.4M	$15.7M
Public Health and MHPSS	$1.5M	$10.1M
Education	$0.7M	$9.3M
Child Protection	$0.8M	$8.7M
Gender-based Violence	$0.4M	$6.3M

*as of end of Q1

2025 Achievements

Support for Public Authorities

163 personnel trained

Strengthening Social Cohesion

1,637 participants from both refugee and host communities in initiatives and events

Romanian courses for integration

2,418 people provided with Romanian languages classes

People reached by sector

Protection
25,910

Education
1,683

Basic Needs
22,431

Child Protection
5,820

Health and Nutrition
4,642

Cash Assistance
1,817

Gender-Based Violence
3,140

MHPSS
4,170

Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion
3,423

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.

Sharp Funding Gaps Impact Essential Refugee Services

The Inter-Agency Coordination Unit finalised its assessment of the Q1 2025 funding situation of the RRP. Out of $82.8 million appealed for by the 42 RRP partners, only $10,3 million (12 per cent) had been received at the end of Q1 with particularly severe funding gaps identified for basic needs, child protection, education, and livelihoods, gender-based violence (GBV), sectors. 23 of the partners have not received any new funding against their appeals. Detailed findings are illustrated in the Inter-Agency accompanying infographic. The results of the assessment will help to inform fundraising efforts to ensure continued provision of essential support to refugees.

Spotlight story - RRP partner Necuvinte

Since the beginning of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, RRP partner Necuvinte has undertaken a series of humanitarian efforts to support Ukrainian refugees. One of the key projects implemented as part of this assistance is the “Safe Space for Women and Girls”, which began in 2023 and continues to be active at the Edmond Nicolau Refugee Centre in Bucharest. At the centre, Necuvinte has centralized and expanded its services to create a support hub tailored to the real needs of those fleeing the war.

Over the past two years, Necuvinte has directly supported more than 6,770 direct beneficiaries and nearly 79,800 indirect beneficiaries. Through various activities and services – including SGBV risk assessments, SGBV protection services, individual and group psychological counselling, social assistance, community facilitation, Romanian language courses, personal development workshops for youth, recreational and social activities, distribution of dignity kits and hygiene products, primary medical counselling, and referrals to complementary specialized services – this space has become more than just a safe place; it has become a space of resilience and healing.

Alyona, a 24-year-old refugee from Odesa, adds, "Group therapy is the one space I look forward to, where I can relax, take an hour for myself, and be with others who, like me, are going through tough times."

Lyalya, a 65-year-old refugee from Nikolaev, says "For the first time, I heard about breast self-examination – how, when, and why we should do it. I am not educated, and I didn’t have the time to study because I had children to raise. Here, for the first time, I am gaining additional information about our health as women."

In 2025, due to a reduction in funding, Necuvinte had to reduce many of the services offered in previous years, which has been particularly felt by the refugees, however, the NGO still provides assistance where needed most.

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

Stepping Up Counselling and Legal Support

With increased uncertainty around the future of Temporary Protection (TP) permits and how to regularize stay beyond March 2026, organizations across Romania have scaled up efforts to provide accurate information and practical support to refugees. The Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR), in partnership with UNHCR, has been at the forefront of this response, offering individualized legal counselling on residence-related concerns and long-term integration options. Key counselling topics have included access to social and medical services, procedures for acquiring or restoring citizenship, and practical matters such as obtaining driver's licenses.

Community Outreach and Information Sessions

In Constanța, CNRR, the General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI), and the Civic Resource Centre (CRC) co-organized a large-scale information session that drew participation from over 140 refugees. The event addressed a broad range of topics, with particularly strong interest in employment opportunities, digital nomad visas, and the process of establishing limited liability companies (SRLs). These areas of inquiry reflect a growing orientation toward long-term settlement and economic participation in Romania.

For the latest progress against the sector indicators please consult this dashboard.

Expanding Access to Documentation

Access to essential civil documentation was significantly enhanced in Iași through a joint initiative by the Ukrainian Embassy in Romania and the International Justice Mission (IJM). The official consular mission, held at the Nicolina Humanitarian and Social Assistance Centre, enabled TP holders to access services locally, avoiding the need to travel to Bucharest. CNRR supported the mission by providing on-site counselling, ensuring that beneficiaries fully understood the procedures and could address individual concerns in real time.

Policy Engagement on the EU Pact

At the policy level, the Protection Working Group, led by UNHCR and CNRR, launched a dedicated task force to examine the implications of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum. The group, comprising eleven civil society and humanitarian organizations, convened its inaugural meeting on 10 April. The task force seeks to fill a gap in national-level consultation by coordinating information-sharing, enhancing collective advocacy, and pushing for an inclusive dialogue with authorities. Early discussions focused on proposed border procedures, safeguarding mechanisms for individuals with specific needs (including unaccompanied minors), family tracing and reunification, age assessment practices, and the role of NGOs in the new system. The group committed to developing joint advocacy messages and inviting relevant authorities to share implementation plans in future sessions.

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 (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

Strengthening Institutional Partnerships

Throughout April, national authorities and humanitarian partners intensified efforts to protect and include refugee children in Romania, with particular attention to children with disabilities and those from marginalized communities. UNHCR led a series of high-level meetings aimed at reinforcing institutional collaboration and policy alignment. On 10 April, UNHCR met with Mr. Adrian Voican, State Secretary and President of the National Authority for People with Disabilities (ANPDPD), to explore strategies for better supporting refugees with disabilities—especially children. Discussions focused on aligning disability certification standards across age groups and ensuring early identification and access to services through inclusive protection measures. Both institutions committed to improving outreach and producing accessible information for refugee families.

Building on this momentum, UNHCR met on 30 April with Ms. Helena-Omna Raicu, State Secretary and President of the National Authority for the Protection of Child Rights and Adoption (ANPDCA). The meeting reaffirmed a shared commitment to strengthening Romania's child protection system for refugee children, especially in the context of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum. Building on collaboration within the Child Protection Sub-Working Group, both parties discussed a joint workplan, including awareness-raising campaigns, capacity-building on Best Interest Procedures, and the use of mass media to reach refugee families.

Community Engagement and Cultural Integration

Field-level engagement continued to play a crucial role in April. On 17 April, the Roma Education Fund and UNHCR held an interactive awareness session for 20 refugee children from the Roma community displaced from Ukraine. Timed around the Easter holidays, the event introduced Romanian cultural traditions, helping children bridge cultural differences and easing their adjustment into local communities.

Policy Development and System Assessments

UNICEF sustained its work to strengthen national systems and policies for children. In April, the organization developed a draft guide for assessing and determining the best interests of unaccompanied or separated children. Now under review by key authorities and stakeholders, the guide outlines core principles and procedures consistent with both Romanian and international child protection standards. In parallel, UNICEF conducted a rapid assessment of residential care services for children evacuated from Ukraine. The evaluation reviewed safety conditions, protection practices, individualized care, and long-term sustainability—key elements for ensuring supportive developmental environments for children at risk.

Child Protection Services on the Ground

Save the Children Romania continued to deliver comprehensive child protection services across multiple regions, including Bucharest, Baia Mare, Galați, Iași, and Suceava. In April alone, the organization assisted 1,068 children, providing information and counselling on children's rights and entitlements, individualized case management for children in vulnerable situations, and parenting sessions grounded in the "safe families" methodology. These efforts aim to prevent abuse and neglect, while promoting protective and nurturing family environments.

For the latest progress against the sector indicators please consult this dashboard.

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

Advancing Policy Through Research and Advocacy

On 23 April, ANES hosted the closing conference of the RoNor – Stronger Together Against Gender-Based Violence! project, marking the launch of the 2025 report Improving Access to Healthcare and Justice for Sexual Violence Survivors. Developed through a participatory approach with support from Kilden genderresearch.no, the Aspacia Foundation, and the Council of Europe, the report revealed that one in three Romanian women has experienced physical or sexual violence. It called for urgent investment in accessible, survivor-focused services. The growing network of Sexual Violence Intervention Centres (SVICs)—ten established since 2021—was praised, beginning with the centre at the University Emergency Hospital Bucharest. However, challenges persist in awareness, political will, and sustainable funding. The report advocates for expanding SVICs to every emergency hospital in Romania and will be widely disseminated to support this goal.

IA Model of Integrated Response: Târgu Mureș SVIC

Among these centres, the SVIC in Târgu Mureș has been recognized as a model of successful collaboration. Endorsed by both ANES and RRP partner EEIRH, the centre exemplifies best practices in local coordination, with established referral pathways involving law enforcement and municipal services. Situated within the emergency unit of the county hospital, the centre offers immediate and dignified support to survivors, including Ukrainian refugees, and meets national standards for service provision. It also ensures ongoing care through multilingual support—including Russian and Ukrainian—and regular follow-up visits.

Reinforcing Policy Partnerships and Institutional Capacity

In April, stakeholders across Romania and the region intensified efforts to strengthen protection systems for refugee women and girls, particularly in the area of gender-based violence (GBV). UNHCR led strategic discussions with national authorities to bolster both policy and operational responses. On 1 April, UNHCR met with Ms. Luminița Popescu, State Secretary at the National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men (ANES), to enhance institutional cooperation on GBV prevention and survivor support for Ukrainian refugees. While recognizing Romania's progress in addressing sexual and cyber violence, the meeting highlighted the need for community-based, inclusive approaches and stronger institutional capacity. Both parties committed to joint training initiatives for emergency responders, including 112 hotline operators, to improve survivor identification, referral, and immediate support. The urgency of sustaining holistic care services amid tightening resources was also emphasized. With rising protection risks amid funding constraints, both parties stressed the urgency of safeguarding critical services and ensuring continued access to holistic care for survivors.

Community-Based Support and Psychosocial Services

Throughout the month, community engagement and emotional well-being remained central to GBV prevention and survivor support. In Bucharest, the Dr. Max Foundation hosted an art therapy session where Ukrainian refugee women explored traditional folk painting as a form of healing and cultural expression. Over the course of April, Dr. Max provided more than 35 hours of psychosocial support through 22 counselling sessions. Eight GBV survivors sought support, seven of whom received individualized case management. The foundation also held 21 group sessions in Bucharest, Constanța, and Suceava, reaching nearly 240 refugees, and facilitated creative theatre workshops in Constanța. In Rădăuți, Suceava County, 18 refugees received basic food support, reflecting a broad commitment to community-based care.

Training and Regional Empowerment Initiatives

Capacity-building efforts extended across borders. In Chișinău, Moldova, Empowerment through Self-Defence (ESD) lead instructor Daniela Drăghici conducted a three-day experiential workshop, organized by the Reproductive Health Training Center (CIDSR) with support from the Embassy of Finland. The workshop trained 25 frontline staff from Neovita's Youth-Friendly Health Clinics in GBV prevention and sexual and reproductive health education, equipping them with tools to empower others in their communities.

These interlinked efforts—spanning institutional cooperation, survivor support, community resilience, and national advocacy—reflect a shared determination to build a stronger, more responsive protection system for refugee women and girls in Romania and across the region.

For the latest progress against the sector indicators please consult this dashboard.

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

Throughout April, UN agencies and NGO partners continued collaborative efforts to ensure sustained access to inclusive education for refugee children—especially those displaced from Ukraine—as well as other vulnerable groups across Romania. With a comprehensive focus on early childhood development, language acquisition, school enrolment, and psychosocial support, these interventions have helped children overcome educational barriers and integrate into the Romanian school system.

Facilitating School Enrolment and System Navigation

Efforts to streamline the school enrolment process for refugee children intensified in April. UNICEF worked closely with the School Inspectorate of the Municipality of Bucharest (ISMB) and the Education Desk at RomExpo to support registrations for the upcoming school year's preparatory classes. The RomExpo desk handled 82 education-related queries, including 25 formal registration requests, and offered guidance on Romanian education pathways and study equivalency procedures. Amid rising enrolment, stakeholders—including parents and educators—highlighted the need for school mediators to support Ukrainian students' successful integration into classrooms.

Multi-Level Engagement and Early Learning Hubs

Working in partnership with organizations such as Step-by-Step, HoltIS, and JRS Romania, UNICEF helped deliver complementary education and parenting services in key urban areas with significant refugee populations, including Bucharest, Brașov, Cluj, Constanța, Tulcea, and Vâlcea County.

Through its partnership with Step-by-Step, UNICEF operated 16 play, learning, and parenting hubs that reached 391 Ukrainian and Romanian children. These hubs provided early learning opportunities that not only foster school readiness but also promote social inclusion and emotional well-being.

JRS Romania complemented these efforts with wide-ranging educational services through six learning centres in Bucharest, Brașov, and Constanța, reaching 244 children. An additional 200 children participated in recreational and learning activities at the Pipera Hub and RomExpo playground. These services, supported by 22 Ukrainian and Romanian teachers and two psychologists, included homework help, psychosocial counselling, and family mediation in partnership with school counsellors.

Under an EU-funded project through the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), JRS expanded its services in Constanța and Galați to include counselling on school enrolment, social benefits, and language support. More than 300 children and 350 adults participated in educational activities. Four teachers delivered daily Romanian language classes, while online language learning—supported by Entreculturas and Caritas—reached 500 children. Preschool-aged children in Bucharest also benefited from learning activities through the One Proposal project.

Save the Children's Local-Level Educational Programming

Save the Children Romania delivered vital educational support for refugee and vulnerable children across Bucharest, Baia Mare, Galați, Iași, and Suceava. Activities were hosted in both schools and community centres, focusing on improving academic outcomes, language skills, and cultural integration. In April alone, the organization provided afterschool and remedial support to 126 school-aged children and 43 preschoolers, while 324 children received Romanian and English language instruction. These services helped bridge gaps in learning and built the foundation for stronger classroom inclusion.

These coordinated efforts underscore the shared commitment of humanitarian partners and Romanian authorities to creating a safe, inclusive, and nurturing educational environment for all children—regardless of their origin or legal status. As educational challenges evolve, partners remain dedicated to ensuring that learning continues everywhere, for everyone.

For the latest progress against the sector indicators please consult this dashboard.

Health and nutrition

Working Group co-chairs

WHO

Romanian Red Cross

Appealing sectoral partners

- Asociația Moașelor Independente
- Ateliere Fără Frontiere
- City Makers
- East European Institute for Reproductive Health (EEIRH)
- 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

Enhancing Access to Healthcare and Vaccination Services for Refugees and Vulnerable Communities

In April, concerted efforts by WHO Romania and key health stakeholders strengthened access to healthcare and immunization for refugees and vulnerable populations. A landmark collaboration agreement was signed on 17 April between WHO Romania and the National Institute of Public Health to address persistent inequalities in vaccination coverage. Building on the results of a WHO-led qualitative study examining barriers to vaccine access, this partnership will launch county-level roundtables to disseminate findings and drive the implementation of key recommendations. As part of European Immunization Week (24–30 April), WHO Romania—alongside the Ministry of Health, professional medical bodies, and public health authorities—produced a video campaign featuring healthcare professionals to raise awareness about the critical role of provider-patient communication on vaccination.

Strengthening Culturally Sensitive Health and Mental Health Services

WHO Romania also advanced the capacity of the healthcare workforce to serve refugee and migrant communities through a two-day training on 9–10 April. Conducted in collaboration with the WHO Health and Migration Department, the session equipped 20 participants—including MHPSS professionals and health workers from refugee centres—with the competencies needed to deliver culturally appropriate and people-centred care under the WHO Global Competency Standards for Refugee and Migrant Health.

Meanwhile, WHO continues to support primary healthcare access for Ukrainian refugees by funding administrative stipends for family doctors in seven counties. In April, doctors supported through this initiative provided 455 consultations, including 63 childhood vaccinations. To address persistent language barriers, WHO's telephone interpretation hotline facilitated 58 translation services, including during emergency consultations, and cultural mediators offered personalized guidance to over 80 individuals.

Expanding Community-Based Health and Psychosocial Support

Across six centres nationwide, the Romanian Red Cross remained a vital provider of medical and psychosocial support. In April, 396 adults and children received medical assistance, and 451 individuals participated in health education sessions covering essential topics such as first aid, nutrition, diabetes management, and sexual and reproductive health. The Red Cross also provided individual counselling to 77 Ukrainians and facilitated psychosocial group activities for more than 400 community members, including teenagers, single parents, and the elderly.

Targeted Health Access Support for Children and Families

Save the Children Romania focused its efforts on improving healthcare access for vulnerable Ukrainian children and families. In April, the organization supported family doctor registration, accompanied refugees to medical appointments, and provided interpretation and assistance in navigating the healthcare system. Emphasis was placed on helping children with chronic conditions and disabilities—groups facing the most significant challenges in accessing specialized treatment and therapies.

Expanding Mental Health and Psychosocial Support for Ukrainian Refugees

In April, partners continued to prioritize mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services to help Ukrainian refugees navigate the emotional and psychological impact of displacement. WHO Romania led a national effort to map MHPSS services across the country. Through a new initiative launched by its national mental health consultant, WHO is working with MHPSS partners to assess service availability, training programs, and funding constraints. This comprehensive mapping will not only provide a clearer picture of current capacities and gaps but also guide strategic advocacy with donors, policymakers, and coordination bodies to ensure long-term, sustainable investment in mental health support. WHO's cultural mediators, with MHPSS training and experience, played a critical role in delivering direct psychosocial care. They conducted individual and group counselling sessions as well as art therapy workshops, reaching 174 Ukrainian beneficiaries in need of emotional support and stress relief.

Meanwhile, Save the Children Romania focused on improving peer relationships and emotional well-being for displaced children and families through structured MHPSS activities. In April alone, the organization supported 655 Ukrainian children and 257 adults in Bucharest, Baia Mare, Galați, Iași, and Suceava. These activities provided safe spaces for expression, emotional resilience building, and social interaction, contributing to a more stable and supportive environment for refugee communities.

Together, these efforts reflect a coordinated approach to strengthening mental health services for refugees in Romania, addressing both immediate needs and long-term system resilience.

For the latest progress against the sector indicators please consult the Health dashboard and the MHPSS dashboard.

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

In April, efforts to support refugees in Romania continued to focus on integrated assistance, sustainable housing solutions, and meeting urgent basic needs through a coordinated, multi-actor response.

Strengthening Local Housing Solutions and Emergency Readiness

On 1 April, UNHCR and FONSS, accompanied by State Counsellor Mrs. Alina Cimpoieru, representatives from the Department for Emergency Situations (DSU), and the General Directorate of Social Assistance of Bucharest Municipality (DGASMB), visited the Nicolina centre in Iași to explore sustainable housing options for refugees from Ukraine. During the meeting with the Mayor of Iași, stakeholders emphasized the vital role of the centre in managing future refugee flows and emergency scenarios. The visit reaffirmed the need to maintain the centre as a functional accommodation site in the medium to long term, ensuring access to integrated services such as social assistance, healthcare, and shelter.

Addressing Urgent Basic Needs through Cash Assistance and NFIs

UNHCR continued its commitment to assisting vulnerable displaced populations through its Cash for Rent and Cash for Emergency programmes. In Iași, 29 vulnerable families from Ukraine, including several single-person households, received housing support through FONSS. Additionally, AIDRom assisted seven households, six from Ukraine and one from Syria, facing eviction or family loss, benefiting a total of 27 individuals.
UNHCR also ramped up its non-food item (NFI) distribution, reaching over 5,100 refugees across 11 counties, including Arad, Bucharest, Constanța, Iași, and Suceava. Essential items distributed included baby diapers, hygiene kits, mattresses, towels, pillows, and clothing. Since the beginning of 2025, more than 70,000 NFIs have been delivered to nearly 30,000 refugees and members of host communities across Romania.
Partners such as AIDRom expanded local collaborations to enhance support mechanisms. In Timișoara, AIDRom partnered with the local Food Bank for weekly food distributions, assisting dozens of Ukrainian families throughout the month. Between 3–25 April alone, more than 70 individuals benefitted from these efforts.

For the latest progress against the sector indicators please consult this dashboard.

Responding to New Refugee Arrivals with Coordinated Integration Support

In Bucharest, UNHCR and IOM's multifunctional team joined the Local Support Team for the Integration of Foreigners, convened by the Prefecture on 10 April. The focus of the meeting was the urgent humanitarian needs of 117 Palestinian refugees recently evacuated from Gaza to Romania through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. In the presence of high-level representatives including State Counsellor Cimpoieru and officials from the Ministry of Health, GII, DGASMB, and DGASPC, participants discussed the acute shortages in shelter, healthcare, and funding. The meeting called for improved national coordination and a comprehensive mapping of available resources to ensure adequate support for both existing and newly arrived refugees.

Supporting Families through Cash Assistance and Child-Focused Services

Meanwhile, Save the Children Romania prioritized immediate needs through its Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) programme. In April, 972 vulnerable individuals—comprising 331 families—received CVA support, including 520 children. Additionally, Save the Children distributed over 1,100 NFIs to nearly 1,000 beneficiaries and ensured continued education for vulnerable children by providing daily lunches for 100 children and transportation services for another 19.

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

In April 2025, key actors across Romania continued to strengthen the socio-economic inclusion of refugees through a range of innovative, community-based, and people-centred initiatives. These efforts not only addressed immediate needs but also aimed to create sustainable pathways for refugees to thrive within their host communities.

Launch of the IMMERSED Project: A Multidimensional Integration Model

One of the most forward-looking initiatives this month was the launch of the European project IMMERSED by the HEKS/EPER Foundation Romania, in collaboration with partners in Poland, Slovakia, and Italy. Running from April 2025 to August 2026, IMMERSED is a social innovation project designed to support the professional, financial, and emotional integration of Ukrainian refugees.

The initiative applies the "quadruple helix" model of integration, fostering collaboration among the public sector, private sector, academia, and civil society. By combining systemic change with individual empowerment, IMMERSED aims to build long-term connections between refugees and host communities, setting a precedent for inclusive integration strategies across Europe.

Empowering Artisans and Celebrating Culture in Timișoara

To complement structural integration efforts, AIDRom's integration counsellor organised a cultural and economic empowerment event on 12 April at AMBASADA (Faber) in Timișoara. The gathering highlighted Ukrainian craftsmanship and offered eight refugee artisans the opportunity to present and sell handmade products—ranging from traditional embroidery to natural cosmetics and home décor.

Beyond being a marketplace, the event served as a cultural bridge, creating meaningful opportunities for exchange and understanding between refugees and the local community. By promoting self-reliance and fostering mutual respect, such events support both social and economic integration in practical and symbolic ways.

Comprehensive Services at IOM's Migrant Resource Centres

Meanwhile, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) continued to offer comprehensive support to displaced individuals—including Ukrainians, persons with international protection, and economic migrants—through its Migrant Resource Centres (MRCs). These centres provided a wide range of services, including Romanian language classes, job counselling, and legal guidance to help participants navigate their rights and access safe employment.

The MRCs also prioritized mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), offering individual counselling, group sessions, and even improv theatre activities to promote emotional wellbeing. In April, 198 adults received information and counselling, 16 participated in Romanian language courses, and 16 engaged in labour market access activities, each step marking progress on the path to self-reliance.

Together, these initiatives reflect a growing recognition that refugee integration must go beyond short-term assistance. By combining structural interventions with personal empowerment, partners across Romania are helping refugees rebuild their lives with dignity and purpose—while enriching their host communities in the process.

For the latest progress against the sector indicators please consult this dashboard.

Oleksandra's story - Rebuilding Through Music

My name is Oleksandra, and music has always been a part of my life. Since the age of 16, I have worked with children and adults, teaching music and contributing to their artistic development. Before the war, I was active at the Children's Music School and the Music College, but the conflict changed everything. I had to leave my country and rebuild my life in a new place where I did not know the language and had no reference points.

In Brașov, I found support and guidance at KATYA Hub run by RRP partner the Metropolitan Agency for Durable Development Brasov. Here, I was given the opportunity to reintegrate professionally and continue doing what I love. The KATYA Hub team, together with UNHCR, provided me with access to Romanian language courses and helped me translate the necessary documents to recognize my qualifications. I also learned how to write my CV, search for a job, and present myself in interviews. Moreover, I received practical support – from scheduling interviews to ensuring translation services when needed.

Thanks to this support, I was able to resume my work and share music with children once again. At KATYA Hub, I organized a "music therapy" program for children aged 2 to 4, an initiative that brings not only joy but also a means of expression and development for the little ones. Additionally, I helped organize several concerts where Ukrainian children had the opportunity to perform and maintain their connection with their culture and traditions. These events

took place win public spaces, in the heart of the city, bringing people together through music. For the second consecutive year, I have been invited to Bucharest to an event marking the anniversary of the start of the invasion. Here, alongside ambassadors, ministers, and representatives of the countries supporting Ukraine, I can share my story and that of others who, like me, are trying to rebuild their lives. Music has always been a universal language, and thanks to the support I have received, I have been able to continue my mission and bring hope to those around me.

Cross-Cutting Priorities

Trafficking in Persons

In April, several critical initiatives advanced efforts to protect refugees from trafficking and exploitation, emphasizing the importance of coordinated, multi-agency approaches across Romania and the broader region. With growing concerns over the vulnerability of displaced populations—particularly in the wake of the war in Ukraine—partners focused on enhancing cooperation, prevention, and victim support systems.

National-Level Engagement Against Trafficking in Persons

On 7 April, IOM Romania's Counter-Trafficking focal point participated in a strategic convening organized by Justice and Care in collaboration with Romania's Directorate for Investigating Organized Crime and Terrorism (DIICOT). The event brought together key national stakeholders to improve coordination, foster synergy, and strengthen the complementarity of efforts to combat trafficking in persons. Participants emphasized the importance of consistent communication, data sharing, and joint actions to disrupt trafficking networks and better protect at-risk individuals.

Sustaining Vigilance Against Exploitation

Together, these efforts reflect a shared recognition of the persistent threat that trafficking poses to refugees and the need for coordinated, rights-based responses. As displacement continues, partners reaffirmed their commitment to collective action—bridging national and regional strategies to safeguard those most at risk.

Regional Dialogue on Emerging Exploitation Trends

From 23 to 24 April, RRP partners eLiberare and UNHCR participated in the Regional Expert Group Meeting on the Impact of the War in Ukraine on Human Trafficking in South-East Europe. Hosted by UNODC in collaboration with Romania's National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons (ANITP) and France's Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, the meeting focused on emerging threats such as illegal adoption and surrogacy-related exploitation.

The event gathered experts and frontline organizations from across the region to assess new risks and share good practices. Discussions highlighted the need for robust cross-border collaboration to anticipate and prevent trafficking—especially as some refugees consider returning to Ukraine.

At the regional forum, eLiberare presented its Kompass Model, a tailored response framework developed in the context of the Ukrainian refugee crisis. The model identifies key vulnerabilities among displaced individuals, including language barriers, absence of support networks, caregiving responsibilities, and fear of approaching authorities. The organization advocated for improved victim identification tools, specialized services, and enhanced regional cooperation to address these vulnerabilities more effectively.

UNHCR joined a joint panel alongside UNODC, IOM Ukraine, the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, and the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator to present its comprehensive strategy for trafficking risk mitigation. The strategy integrates anti-trafficking safeguards into asylum and reception systems and invests in the capacity-building of frontline staff. UNHCR also underlined its close cooperation with civil society, national authorities, and regional institutions to develop a consistent and rights-based approach to refugee protection in Romania.

Protection and Inclusion Challenges for Refugees: Advocacy and Action Needed

Shortage of interpreters for medical consultations

A significant shortage of interpreters for medical consultations has been reported at the local level. Although an online interpretation service is available, doctors often insist on in-person interpreters, particularly for complex consultations (e.g., neurology). Non-Romanian-speaking patients face additional barriers, as they must complete medical questionnaires in Romanian prior to procedures such as angio-CT, MRI, or ultrasounds. With the upcoming withdrawal of CNRR and UNHCR services in several areas, some temporary protection holders, especially older persons unfamiliar with smartphones and digital tools, are increasingly anxious about losing access to essential medical interpretation support.

Awareness of GBV response services

There is a need to strengthen community-level awareness of available GBV response services for refugee populations. To address this, UNHCR will coordinate bilateral consultations with stakeholders to targeted information sessions on GBV services for Ukrainian refugees at RomExpo, leveraging trained expertise to promote protection and access to support.

Access to healthcare

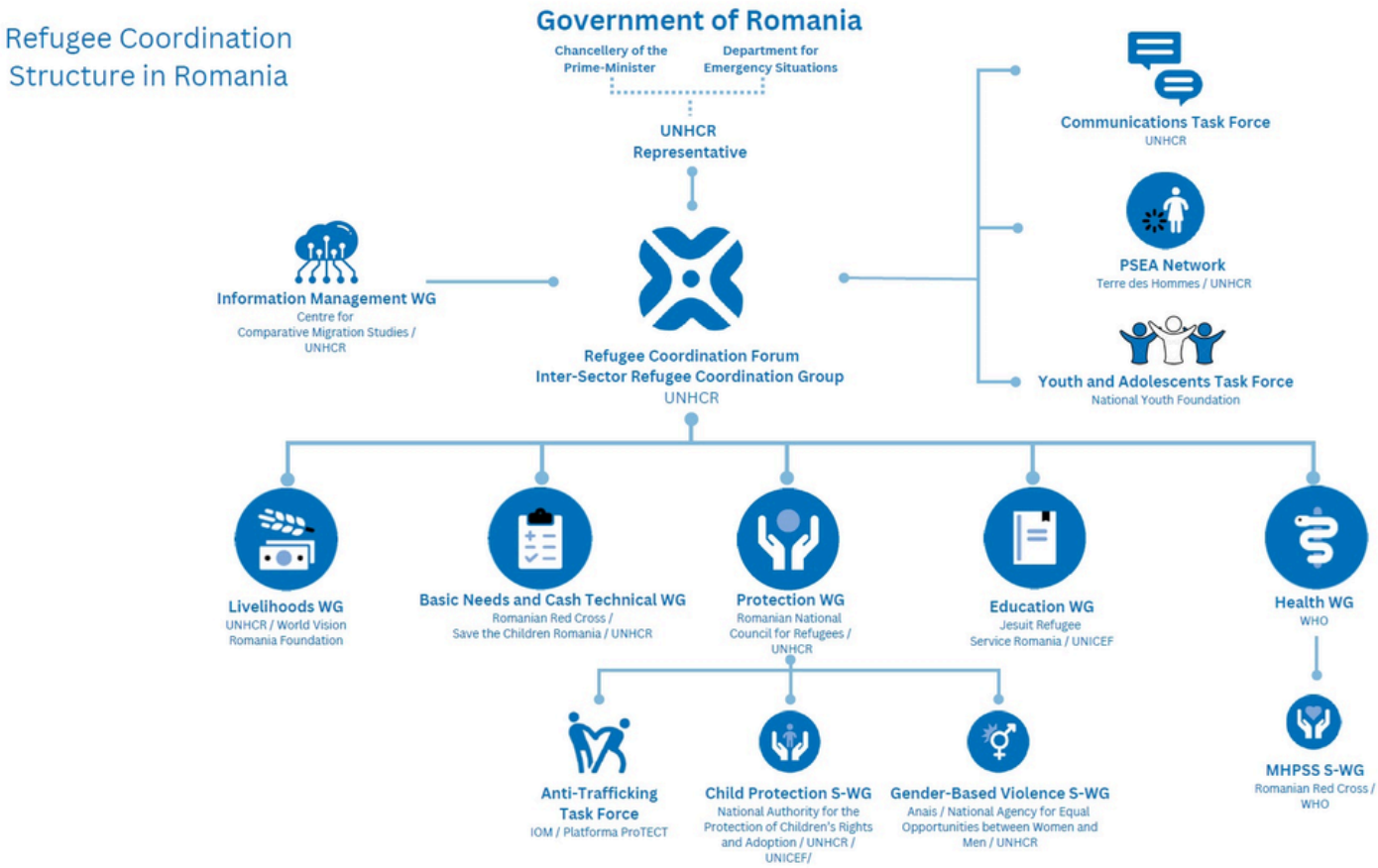
As of April, some local social assistance offices have begun requesting legalized translations of passports when applicants for the Minimum Income for Inclusion (VMI) need to verify their civil status. This additional requirement—particularly affecting individuals under Temporary Protection—has raised concerns among humanitarian actors, as it is not legally mandated and poses a financial barrier for vulnerable applicants. In certain cases, the requirement has been partially adjusted following advocacy efforts, limiting it to situations where individuals declare a divorce without documentation or claim to have never been married. However, inconsistencies remain in the application of this measure, including its continued enforcement for applicants registering jointly with a spouse—despite prior agreements to the contrary. These administrative barriers, which lack a clear legal foundation, continue to hinder equitable access to essential social assistance for refugees and other vulnerable populations.

Education system barriers and the need for integration support

Due to the large number of Ukrainian children in schools, the school managers highlighted the need for school mediators to support Ukrainian children's integration. To address this challenge, the School Inspectorate of the Municipality of Bucharest has identified a partner that offers integration services to foreign citizens in Romania. This partner has announced the start of School Mediator courses, accredited by the National Authority for Qualifications. The initiative is also featured on the ISMB Ukraine support page.

There remain challenges related to efforts to fully integrate refugee children in the Romanian education system, including transition from audient to pupil status, support provided to children by Ukrainian specialists acting as school mediators/social educators, Romanian language classes and tests, as well as recognition of studies and requirements for equivalence of studies. Children coming to the end of secondary education are in a vulnerable position, being required to pass the national exam under similar conditions as Romanian children, despite not having acquired an adequate level of understanding of Romanian language. Solutions are being sought in collaboration with the authorities. The enrolment for the new academic year remains problematic concerning the schools that should include foreign children and the number of places available per class/school for them.

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 Moașelor 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
Romania Refugee Response Plan - Results