Regional Refugee Response
for the Ukraine Situation

2025 END-OF-YEAR REPORT

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Cover photo: Raisa Kharchenko, 67, fled to Hungary from the town of Pokrovsk in Donetsk oblast, eastern Ukraine, about a month and a half after the full-scale invasion of Ukraine began on 24 February 2022. Today, she lives in a workers' dormitory in the city of Eger, eastern Hungary with her husband, Vasily, 67, daughter, Yelena, 43, and grandson Matvey, 8.
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REGIONAL OVERVIEW

The war in Ukraine has been the fastest growing and largest displacement crisis in Europe since World War II, leading to a large-scale regional refugee response.

The 2025 component of the 2025-2026 Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) for the Ukraine Situation outlined the multi-sector response strategy of local, national and international humanitarian partners in Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia in 2025.

The 2025 RRP detailed practical and specialized support from partners to host countries through four pillars. These included ensuring refugees could access legal status and rights, offering targeted assistance to refugees with specific needs and vulnerabilities, enhancing refugees' self-reliance and socio-economic inclusion as well as fostering social cohesion between refugee and host communities.

Mainstreamed across these four strategic objectives were a number of cross-cutting response priorities, such as mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS); accountability to affected people; protection from sexual exploitation and abuse; localization; Government ownership and maintaining emergency capacities.

This end-of-year report, covering 2025, captures the progress and achievements made against the strategic objectives and identifies gaps and consequences of underfunding. It also includes advocacy messages targeting Government, donors and other key stakeholders and highlights the important work done by local and national partners. It is accompanied by regional and country-level reporting on funding levels and output indicators and should be read alongside the Refugee Response Plan covering 2025-26.

Regional progress against strategic objectives

In 2025, inter-agency assessments, including the Socio-Economic Insight Survey (SEIS), have shown a stable situation with regard to the protection, socio-economic inclusion, healthcare, and education for refugees from Ukraine. Advancements in legal status and protection have been safeguarded through the extension and continued implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD), ensuring that refugees maintain access to safety, rights, and essential services across host countries.[1] Efforts have been made to address inconsistencies in TPD implementation and monitor legal status retention for those temporarily returning to Ukraine. These measures have helped mitigate risks of premature return and ensured continued access to protection mechanisms.

Protection monitoring has continued to track refugee communities' access to rights and services across the countries covered by the RRP and has supported targeted interventions to address identified gaps – including expanded services for vulnerable groups, leading to better inclusion in national systems and increased accessibility of national services, housing, and employment. Collaboration with national and local organizations has been instrumental in strengthening protection mechanisms and addressing documentation gaps, which have been reduced through legal assistance initiatives.

Temporary Protection and regular stay arrangements reduced reliance on irregular and risky coping strategies, indirectly lowering trafficking exposure. Survivor-centred GBV services and cross-sectoral risk mitigation were reinforced, resulting in improved prevention, safer access to services, and more inclusive protection for women, girls, and marginalized groups. Community engagement, refugee participation, and local capacities were strengthened, enabling greater self-reliance, reduced discrimination, and improved social cohesion within host communities despite challenges. Accessible information, effective feedback and complaints mechanisms, and an increased refugee participation in programme design and monitoring improved the levels of accountability and responsiveness of the response.

[1] Moldova has separate, national legislation.

Economic inclusion of refugees continues to advance overall, with employment rates of refugees now close to host-population levels, and many now earning more than in previous years. This demonstrates that host-country efforts to expand labour-market participation remain vital, as employment continues to be a key pathway to deeper economic inclusion.

Healthcare access in host countries has slightly increased, compared to last year. Improved awareness campaigns and policy adjustments have enhanced service delivery for those with chronic conditions and disabilities. Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) programmes and needs remained significant, with 71 per cent of refugees who reported needing support accessing MHPSS services, and 88 per cent of those reporting improvements in their well-being.

Child protection outcomes have slightly improved. Partners and stakeholders continued to work jointly with national child protection authorities for improved access of Ukrainian refugee children to services and protection, however there is still a space for further efforts in this regard. There are positive developments in terms of more individualized approach to Ukrainian refugee children without the parental care, in line with the best interests of the child. Country level advocacy remains vital for further strengthening of case management and follow-up.

Refugee enrolment in national education systems continues to increase. Refugee education outcomes improved through strengthened regional and national advocacy, expanded training, and enhanced data systems. Key achievements included impactful legislative contributions across refugee response countries and the launch of a new regional education data portal. Capacity-building programmes and language support have further facilitated inclusion into host country schools.

Initiatives aimed at stateless individuals have continued to support improved access to documentation, legal status, and essential services, although challenges remain. Advocacy efforts to promote access to protection for stateless people have been sustained. Efforts addressing the specific needs of marginalized groups, including the Roma community, have also continued, with an ongoing focus on combating discrimination and enhancing data collection to inform more inclusive responses.

Regional gaps and consequences of underfunding

Continued efforts are necessary to build on these achievements, with an emphasis on reinforcing protection systems, advancing socio-economic inclusion, and fostering stronger social cohesion. Collaborative engagement with host governments, national and local NGOs, civil society, and international partners will be pivotal in securing these advancements. Sustained local ownership and leadership of the response will be crucial for ensuring long-term stability and self-reliance for refugees from Ukraine. As the crisis persists, vulnerabilities continue to escalate, particularly in areas of protection, economic inclusion, healthcare, and education. Protection monitoring indicates that areas such as MHPSS, family separation, violence against women, boys and girls, and human trafficking remain critical concerns. Children, older persons, and individuals with disabilities are particularly at risk due to limited access to national services, housing, and employment opportunities. The demographic composition - where women and children constitute the majority of refugees - necessitates targeted interventions.

Violence amongst close relations remains a significant issue yet underreporting and stigma continue to hinder response efforts. Legal and linguistic barriers further restrict victims and survivors' access to critical support services. Meanwhile, households with specific needs, such as those with disabilities and chronic illnesses, struggle to secure healthcare, social protection, and employment. Persistent documentation gaps, with 15 per cent of respondents reporting missing or possessing at least one expired document,[2] impede access to essential rights and services, often prompting temporary returns to Ukraine.

Economic inclusion remains fragile and incomplete: poverty remains high despite improved economic conditions for refugees from Ukraine, driven by unemployment, underemployment, and high housing costs. Around 60% of employed refugees work in sectors unrelated to their previous experience, and as a trend earn on average only half the hourly wage of locals.[3] Effective labour-market insertion continues to be constrained by skills mismatching, challenges in the recognition of qualifications, and—most critically—insufficient access to language training. Highly vulnerable groups continue to require more targeted support, particularly through tailored employment services and robust social protection mechanisms.

Despite increases in enrolment, educational inclusion remains inconsistent, with persistently low enrolment rates in host country schools and continued reliance on informal or online learning, raising concerns over long-term social and educational outcomes. Many adolescents have spent four years outside formal education, heightening risks of

[2] Displacement patterns, protection risks and needs of refugees from Ukraine - August 2025.
[3] High employment rates, but low wages: a poverty assessment of Ukrainian refugees in neighboring countries, March 2025.

isolation and limiting future economic opportunities. Urgent measures are required to sustainably include refugee children into national education systems.

Stateless individuals continue to face barriers in obtaining documentation, legal status, and essential services, including housing, healthcare, and education. Marginalized groups, such as the Roma community, encounter additional discrimination, underscoring the need for inclusive policies and enhanced data collection.

Coordinated efforts remain essential to strengthening protection systems, ensuring inclusion in national services, integrating affordable housing solutions into refugee support policies, and expanding economic opportunities. Addressing these core challenges will be vital in securing the long-term well-being and stability of refugees from Ukraine. Continued collaboration with host governments, national and local NGOs, civil society, and international partners will be necessary to sustain and enhance response efforts in the coming year.

Advocacy messages

The Temporary protection regime in European countries remains essential while the war continues, and people may be justifiably fearful to return to Ukraine. Temporary protection is currently due to come to an end in the EU in March 2027. UNHCR echoes recommendations adopted by European Council 2025 which call for a smooth and well-coordinated exit from temporary protection – providing possibilities to remain in the EU, as well as support for those who choose to return. It is essential to sustain protection measures under Temporary Protection for as long as displacement continues, avoiding premature roll-backs of assistance affecting the most vulnerable.

Early, accessible, and reliable information is essential to enabling displaced Ukrainians to make informed and genuinely voluntary decisions about whether to remain in host countries or to return. This includes the timely provision of up-to-date guidance on legal status, rights, services, and conditions for return, notably through platforms such as *Ukraine is Home*. Such information should be available in user-friendly formats and languages, and disseminated proactively to reach individuals at different stages of decision-making.

Policy choices in refugee-hosting countries will be critical in shaping return dynamics and should be carefully calibrated to avoid overwhelming national capacities in areas of likely return. Even in a situation of peace, Ukraine needs time to rebuild its capacity – return processes need to be managed gradually. Moreover, host countries should take into account Ukraine's challenges particularly to cater for the special needs of vulnerable persons – providing options for their continued stay whilst national capacities to address their needs are rebuilt.

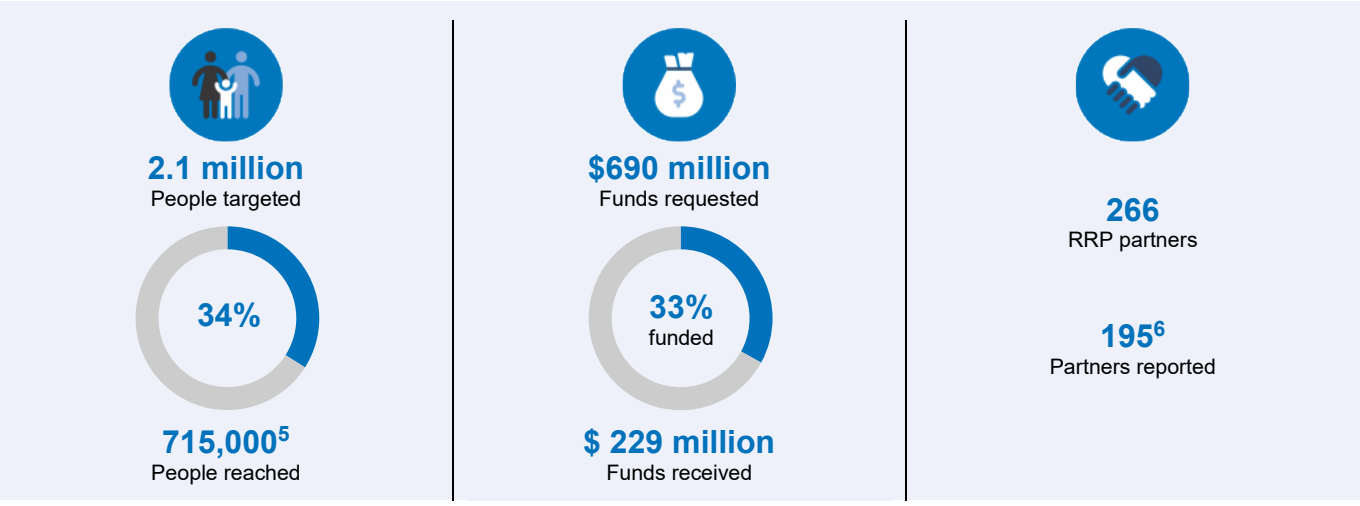
The emerging evidence base – derived directly from the experience of refugees from Ukraine in host countries – now shows us an even more compelling outcome of timely labour-market inclusion, combined with well-designed support systems – a demonstrable contribution to national GDP.[4] As well as no negative effects on national workers, refugees' impact on consumption, productivity, and overall demand is clearly positive. When host countries adopt enabling policies that leverage refugees' human capital, their capacity to contribute is activated rapidly, and the economic value they generate exceeds the cost of the support they receive.

Strengthening local institutions, including municipalities, national and local organizations, including women and refugee led organisations, civil society, and public services, enables more sustainable, cost effective inclusion over the long term. Providing increased direct and flexible funding, along with building strategic partnerships with national and local actors, will improve coordination and amplify results. This approach supports a nationally led, sustainable response in which refugees can actively contribute to social and economic development and **effective inclusion over the long term.**

The Ukraine refugee response has offered valuable lessons on effective coordination, inclusive approaches, and efficient service delivery – lessons that can strengthen responses for all refugees, regardless of context. Although legal statuses may vary, refugees often encounter similar barriers in accessing rights, services, and opportunities to build social cohesion. By adopting inclusive policies and aligning response frameworks, host countries can create more equitable and efficient systems that empower all refugees to contribute and succeed.

[4] Document - Poland: Analysis of the impact of refugees from Ukraine on the economy of Poland — 2nd edition (June 2025)

Regional end-of year achievements



Regional outcomes

	Regional outcome indicators	2024	2025	Difference	
SO1: Access to protection, legal status and rights	% of HHs who have registered for temporary protection or similar scheme	94%	91%	3%	▼
SO2: Refugee inclusion in national services	% of working age (15 – 64) refugees who are employed (employment rate)	64%	68%	4%	▲
	% of refugees who are unemployed, unemployment rate (labour force)	9%	9%	0%	►
	Labour force participation rate (%)	72%	77%	5%	▲
	% of children (6 -15) reported attending formal education in host countries (not official data; based on SEIS data)	80%	86%	6%	▲
	% of individuals with access to healthcare services when needed	86%	87%	1%	▲
	% of individuals who received MHPSS services (of those that needed support and tried to access it)	71%	70%	-1%	▼
	% of individuals who accessed MHPSS and reported improved well being	89%	91%	2%	▲
SO3: Social cohesion with host communities	% of HHs reporting good relationship with host community	66%	63%	-3%	▼
SO4: Localization of the response	% of refugee coordination structures that are led, or co-led by local and national actors	66%	74%	8%	▲

[5] The number of individuals reached is an estimate based on the highest number of individuals reached per activity, per sector and/or per sub-region, to avoid double-counting.
[6] This figure is the total of all RRP partners reporting – one partner may therefore be counted multiple times if operating and reporting in more than one country. In addition to the 195 appealing partners that reported, a further 71 non-appealing organizations also provided information about their activities and funds received in the context of the Ukraine Situation refugee response in 2025.

Regional output

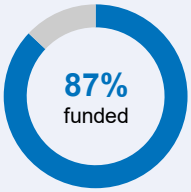
Sector	Output indicators	People targeted	People reached	% reached
Protection	Individuals who have been supported in accessing protection services.	1,346,900	419,400	31%
	Children provided with child protection services	490,400	156,900	32%
	People who benefited from specialized GBV programmes	223,300	187,600	84%
Livelihoods & Economic Inclusion	Individuals who benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions	584,900	87,500	15%
Health & Nutrition	Individuals supported in accessing health services	566,500	153,400	27%
	Health care providers trained to provide health services to refugees	45,200	13,400	30%
Mental Health & Psychosocial Support	Individuals participating in MHPSS services and activities	466,400	186,800	40%
Education	Children and youth supported with education programming (includes support to enrol in formal and non-formal)	313,600	301,200	96%
Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	PSEA network members, partner personnel and staff members of stakeholders involved in the refugee response trained on SEA risk mitigation, prevention and response	6,800	1,000	14%
Basic Needs	Individuals who received assistance for basic needs	371,600	138,800	37%

BULGARIA

35,000
People targeted

35,600[7]
People reached

$29.9 million
Funds requested



$25.9 million
Funds received

22
RRP partners

20
Partners reported[8]

Aid for Ukraine, Animus Association Foundation, Association Energy, Bulgarian Culture Center, *Bulgarian Helsinki Committee*, Bulgarian Red Cross, Caritas Bulgaria, Council for Refugee Women in Bulgaria, Dokovi Foundation, Dreamhouse, Foundation for Access to Rights, Foundation Zapochvam Otnachalo, IOM, Ravda Community, Svitlyachok, Taekwondo School, *Ukraine Support and Renovation Foundation*, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO

Progress against the strategic objectives

Across 2025, the operating environment for the Ukraine response in Bulgaria remained shaped by domestic political volatility, alongside continued government efforts to advance eurozone accession and maintain alignment with EU partners. Temporary Protection (TP) remained the primary legal framework for refugees from Ukraine, with the national system maintaining TP continuity (including re-registration through April 2025). Government support for accommodation and integration evolved from repeated short-term extensions early in the year to a structured approach under the Programme for Humanitarian Assistance and Integration of displaced people from Ukraine adopted on 30 April 2025, which provides time-bound coverage for TP beneficiaries (60 days)[9] followed by a vulnerability assessment and continued support for eligible risk groups. This shift improved coherence, but also introduced a narrower definition of vulnerability, leaving some vulnerable persons behind.[10]

In the 2025–26 school year, some 5,400 children were enrolled in Bulgarian schools (primary and secondary education). Throughout the year, UNHCR, in cooperation with the civil society organization Teach for Bulgaria and EducArt, organized 21 workshops for 120 teachers in Burgas, Plovdiv and Sofia to strengthen awareness of refugee challenges and share practical support models on inclusive education and trauma-informed teaching.

The Compass Protection and Inclusion Centres (which encompass several RRP partners in all of its locations) remained a central delivery model in 2025, supporting over 32,000 refugees with integrated information, legal aid, referrals and inclusion services. Between January and December 2025, UNHCR continued to provide MHPSS group and individual counselling to refugees from Ukraine in Plovdiv and Varna. In Plovdiv, through its funded partner Ukraine Support and Renovation Foundation (USRF), also an RRP reporting partner, a total of 3,824 MHPSS services were delivered to Ukrainian refugees. In Varna, UNHCR funded partner and RRP partner Energy Association, provided 1,007 MHPSS services during the same period.

Other services included career counselling, job place facilitation support, job fairs, collective and individual interviews all aimed at improving access to employment and reinforcing social cohesion between refugee and host communities.

Gaps and consequences of underfunding

In 2025, refugee response efforts in Bulgaria continued to face significant funding shortfalls, despite persistent and evolving protection needs. Underfunding constrained the scope and continuity of key interventions, particularly in the areas of protection, social inclusion, and access to essential services. Limited resources reduced the capacity

[7] The number of individuals reached is an estimate based on the highest number of individuals reached per activity, per sector and/or per region, to avoid double-counting.
[8] Includes 2 non-appealing partners, marked in italics: Bulgarian Helsinki Committee and Ukraine Support and Renovation Foundation.
[9] UNHCR Bulgaria, Protection Brief on the Implementation of the New Humanitarian Assistance Programme, June 2025, p.3
[10] UNHCR Bulgaria, Protection Brief on the Implementation of the New Humanitarian Assistance Programme, June 2025, pp. 5-7

to provide timely assistance, psychosocial support, and targeted outreach to refugees with heightened vulnerabilities, including women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities and survivors of violence.

This trend reflects both the global funding landscape as well as the growing role of national authorities for the inclusion of refugees into national educational systems and social assistance schemes. Community-based protection interventions led by civil society actors remained prioritized activities, particularly in mental health and psychosocial support, child protection, inclusive education, community engagement sessions on health, and support for persons with specific needs. To sustain the RRP's strategic objective of localization, it remains essential to prioritize funding and support for community-based and refugee-led organizations, as well as municipalities engaged in refugee inclusion efforts. RRP partners will continue advocacy and services to ensure inclusion, and to provide technical guidance and capacity-building support to national and local stakeholders, including through coordination platforms.

Advocacy messages

- Promoting inclusive access under the Humanitarian Support and Integration Program by addressing legal and administrative gaps remains critical in order to include persons with specific needs who fall outside narrowly defined risk groups.
- Expanding socio-economic inclusion pathways by strengthening language and skills development and incentivizing employer engagement will be crucial to achieve sustained self-reliance.
- Addressing barriers to essential national services such as healthcare through enhanced information provision on how to access health insurance remains a key priority to ensure inclusion.
- Collaborating with RRP partners and government support for targeted programmes that address low enrolment rates, early childhood education, and catchup support for refugee children in schools remains central to improving educational outcomes.
- Securing sustainable funding for municipalities, community-based and refugee-led organizations to support localization efforts and sustain essential community empowerment activities will be crucial to strengthening community resilience over time.

Coordination transition

In Bulgaria, efforts will continue to engage the Government in the refugee coordination model, including the convening of high-level national refugee coordination forum meetings in 2026 – as well as engagement with municipalities through locally-led coordination meetings in key refugee-hosting regions. These initiatives aim to strengthen refugee inclusion and enhance coordination between humanitarian actors and local authorities. Strategic engagement with relevant Government authorities will be maintained to support co-chairing arrangements of sectoral working groups and to ensure participation of decision-making experts, fostering a stronger, Government-led response and establishing sustainable coordination mechanisms. Coordination structures beyond 2026 will be designed based on government capacity and emerging needs, with support from RRP partners to ensure they remain effective and sustainable.

Partner Spotlight: Energy Association

In the Community Centre for Protection and Inclusion "Compass" run by the local women-led organization and RRP partner Energy Association in Varna, 86-year-old Boris Hristov has become a remarkable source of stability and inspiration for refugee children in Bulgaria through the simple yet profound act of teaching chess. During the first half of 2025, he volunteered twice a week to offer young people – many displaced by conflict and uprooted from their homes – not only lessons in strategy but a sense of belonging, routine and hope.

In the welcoming space he helped create, chess became more than a game: it was a tool for rebuilding confidence, sharpening minds, and forging connections across generations. For these children, often navigating the uncertainties of displacement, Boris's sessions offered a rare opportunity to focus, think creatively and have fun while strengthening resilience. In the second half of the year, adolescents from Energy's teen clubs have taken over as they have been inspired by Boris and have carried forward his mission by teaching chess to younger children.

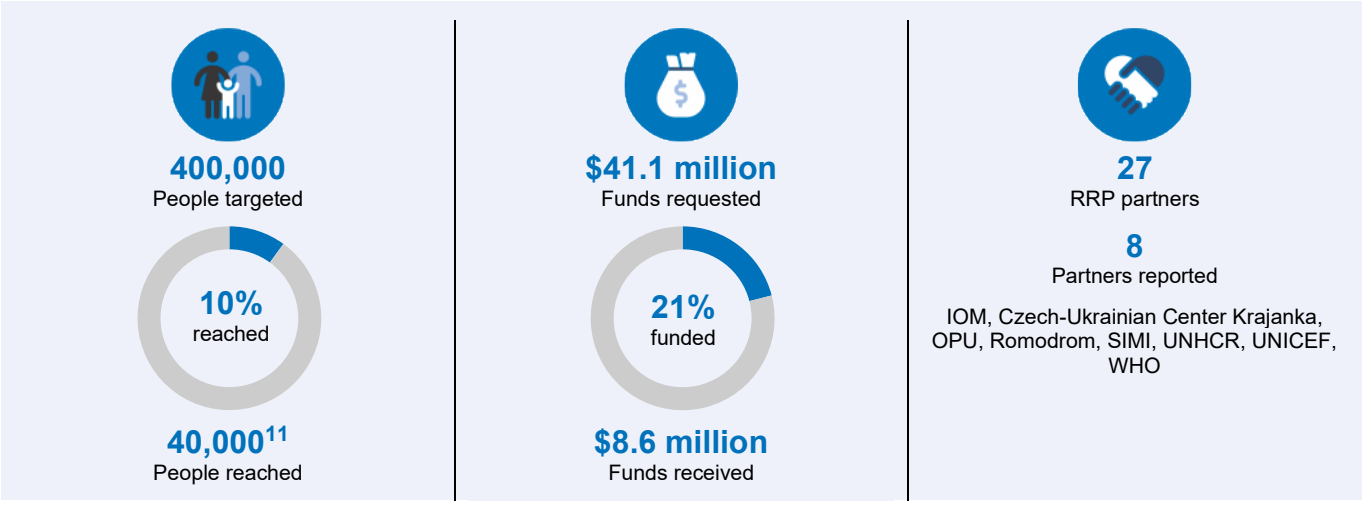
Partner Spotlight: Taekwondo School

The Taekwondo School promoted physical and mental well-being among 60 children through weekly martial arts classes and strengthened community ties between Ukrainian and Bulgarian children through friendly competitions, such as the tournament "The Strongest". The school also organized a two-part Winter Health Camp for 20 children, combining outdoor activities with taekwondo training to rebuild social networks disrupted by displacement. These initiatives collectively enhanced refugee participation, supported psychosocial well-being, and fostered inclusion and resilience among children and youth. The Taekwondo School's work with children highlights the psychosocial and social benefits of regular, structured sports activities and the role of a community-based, refugee-led initiative in fostering inclusion.

Country-level Outcomes

	Outcome indicators	2024	2025	Difference	
SO1: Access to protection, legal status and rights	% of HHs who have registered for temporary protection or similar scheme	98%	98%	0%	►
SO2: Refugee inclusion in national services	% of working age (15 – 64) refugees who are employed (employment rate)	62%	57%	-5%	▼
	% of refugees who are unemployed, unemployment rate (labour force)	6%	18%	12%	▲
	Labor force participation rate (%)	66%	73%	7%	▲
	% of children (6 -15) reported attending formal education in host countries (not official data; based on SEIS data)	51%	73%	12%	▲
	% of individuals with access to healthcare services when needed	87%	93%	6%	▲
	% of individuals who received MHPSS services (of those that needed support and tried to access it)	63%	52%	-11%	▼
	% of individuals who accessed MHPSS and reported improved well being	90%	98%	8%	▲
SO3: Social cohesion with host communities	% of HHs reporting good relationship with host community	73%	74%	1%	▲
SO4: Localization of the response	% of refugee coordination structures that are led, or co-led by local and national actors	31%	40%	9%	▲

CZECH REPUBLIC



Progress against the strategic objectives

Within the 2025 RRP in Czechia, UN agencies together with 23 national partners delivered a coordinated, inter-agency response linking protection, integration, health, education and basic needs support, reaching refugees across all 14 regions while reinforcing national and local systems.

Protection and inclusion interventions prioritized vulnerable groups. More than 11,900 people received verified information on rights and services, and over 9,300 refugees benefited from individualized protection assistance, including legal counselling, social support and housing advice. Targeted support addressed the needs of survivors of GBV, single-parent households, older people, and persons with disabilities. Around 1,000 refugees also accessed employment and qualification recognition guidance, including over 400 receiving more in-depth employment counselling. At the local level, 73 municipal integration projects strengthened community-based inclusion.

MHPSS remained a cross-cutting priority. More than 12,000 children and adolescents received MHPSS services, complemented by 4,000 refugees accessing individualized psychosocial counselling delivered with the involvement of Ukrainian professionals. Ukrainian-speaking psychologists also provided on-site support nationwide.

In the health sector, 6,500 medical and psychosocial consultations were delivered, 3,000 people joined health information sessions, and 1,400 public health professionals were trained. Efforts strengthened health literacy, infectious disease prevention and access to care, and further supported the integration of Ukrainian health professionals into the Czech system.

Children and youth remained central, over 30,000 refugees were reached through protection, education, youth and MHPSS interventions. More than 19,000 children accessed formal education support, and over 24,000 young refugees developed skills and strengthened education-to-work pathways through CESTY programme.

Humanitarian support addressed essential needs while reinforcing frontline capacity. Over 1,000 refugees in vulnerable situations received basic assistance, essential items and medical accompaniment, and around 100 people were supported with emergency accommodation. These efforts were closely linked with strengthening service delivery systems with approximately 800 frontline workers enhancing their skills in trafficking prevention, ethical recruitment and safe referral practices, contributing to more protection-sensitive responses.

Gaps and consequences of underfunding

Despite the progress achieved, funding constraints in 2025 led to a prioritization of resources, which significantly impacted the implementation of and continuity of certain RRP activities.

Budget reductions affected several sectors of the response leading to scaling down, and in some cases even discontinuation, of essential activities. Support to refugee-led organizations through small grants was reduced, limiting community outreach and engagement nationwide. As a result, fewer refugees were able to access key

[11] The number of individuals reached is an estimate based on the highest number of individuals reached per activity, per sector and/or per region, to avoid double-counting.

services such as housing support, which remains one of the most pressing needs, mental health and psychosocial support, or assistance for survivors of gender-based violence. In the education and youth sector, insufficient resources continued to constrain tailored support for refugee youth, including career counselling, language support, and assistance with secondary school enrolment. Although partners mitigated some gaps through system-level cooperation, demand for youth-friendly, protection-sensitive services continued to exceed available capacity.

Health-sector interventions were similarly affected. Activities beyond the highest-priority groups could not be fully implemented following reductions in available funding, limiting the planned expansion of MHPSS, GBV-related health services, and specialized support for vulnerable groups.

Funding limitations also constrained the overall scale and geographic coverage of integration and labour market access support, which are critical for social cohesion and self-reliance. While some emergency MHPSS and housing assistance continued, reduced resources affected the continuity of livelihood support, specialized mental health care, sustainable housing solutions, and access to reliable information. Certain information and helpline services that had been operating nationwide also faced temporary limitations, reducing outreach to refugees in need of timely guidance and referrals.

Advocacy messages

- Central and local authorities should provide legal information tailored to the diverse needs of different refugee groups and ensure that enhanced legal counselling services are available to them.
- Services for refugee youth should be strengthened as a distinct priority group across education, employment, and protection systems to ensure their meaningful inclusion and long-term opportunities.
- Authorities should expand affordable housing solutions and provide targeted social support to prevent poverty and housing instability among refugee households.
- The integration of refugee support into national and municipal systems should continue, ensuring localization and sustainability of the response, including adequate staffing and personnel capacity at the local level.
- Specialized mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services for refugees affected by conflict-related stress should be strengthened and expanded.

Coordination transition

In 2025, RRP partners in Czechia continued close cooperation with government institutions to strengthen national systems and promote localization through established coordination mechanisms and local structures. As 2025 marked the final RRP year in Czechia, efforts focused on embedding services within public institutions, reinforcing the role of municipalities, and supporting cooperation with civil society organizations, which remain one of key actors in service delivery and community outreach.

Integration, protection, youth and MHPSS activities became increasingly linked to national funding streams and institutional frameworks. Locally-led integration initiatives implemented by municipalities continued through state mechanisms, while youth, education and psychosocial services were maintained within the public structures financed through national and EU resources. Ukrainian-speaking professionals remained engaged, contributing to accessible and culturally responsive support. Interventions in health, labour and social sectors were further aligned with national policies, with tools, training approaches and coordination platforms integrated into existing public services.

This transition marked a shift from parallel humanitarian support toward nationally anchored responses, ensuring continuity of essential services for refugees beyond the RRP framework.

Partner Spotlight: Refugee-led organizations

These RLOs, founded and run by Ukrainian refugees in different regions, have become key local actors promoting integration and well-being of refugee youth. Their work mitigates risks of school dropout, illegal employment, and social isolation through community gatherings, creative workshops, peer-support activities, and educational sessions that build confidence and social networks.

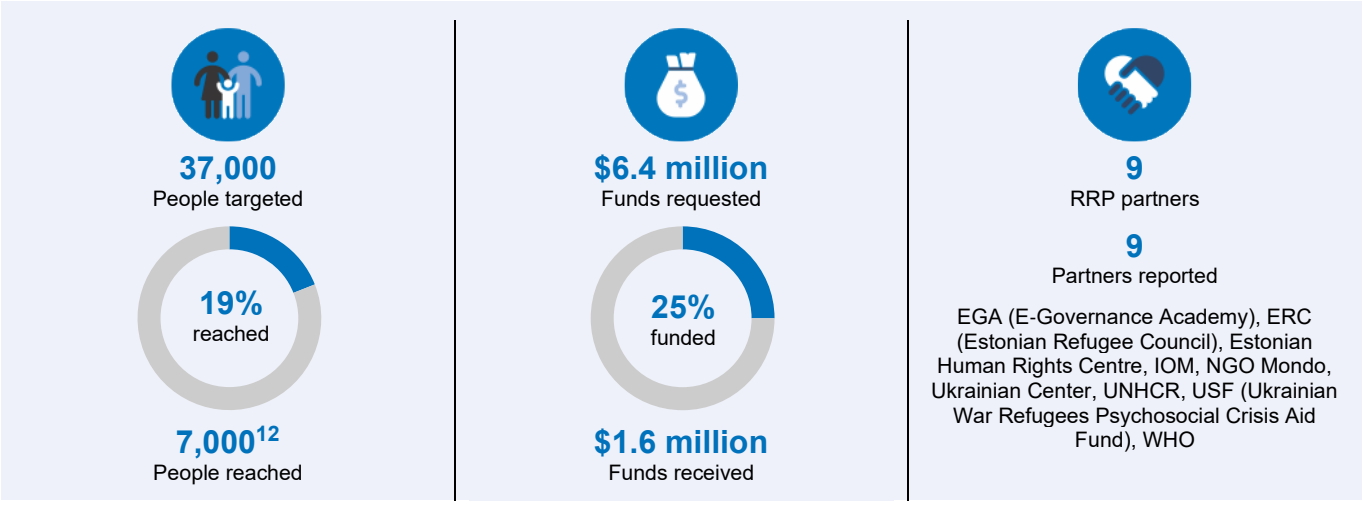
Hometown (Zlín) developed a Job Club focused on career orientation and educational choices, offering counseling, vocational guidance, educational fairs, and career days in partnership with local institutions.

Ščedryk (Olomouc) delivered intensive training on vocational orientation, pathways to future professions, and preparation for secondary school entry exams, while continuing Sunday school to preserve cultural ties.

Country-level Outcomes

The SEIS survey was not conducted in the Czech Republic in 2025 due to funding constraints.

ESTONIA



Progress against the strategic objectives

In 2025, RRP partners in Estonia made meaningful progress in supporting refugees from Ukraine, complementing the refugee response led by the national authorities, despite financial constraints.

The RRP in Estonia was defined by a transition from emergency aid to long-term social and economic inclusion. Partners provided legal consultations to over 620 refugees on international protection, employment, and family reunification. Over 3,000 individuals took part in community engagement activities, and partners provided mental health support and community events for 500 refugees. More than 1,000 vulnerable refugees received essential aid, health consultations, and protection support through targeted interventions.

In collaboration with the University of Tartu, an e-course based on WHO competency standards for refugee and migrant health was developed for healthcare workers.

Partners maintained active involvement in policy development and advocacy for refugee rights and support services. To enable evidence-based planning and coordination, more than 500 interviews were conducted as part of the protection profiling and monitoring exercise, as well as the Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS).

Two in-person coordination meetings, led by UNHCR, were held. The first meeting included updates on the progress of the RRP, and a presentation on UNHCR's study on the effectiveness of referral pathways for gender-based violence survivors. The Ministry of Education also reported on Ukrainian pupils in the Estonian education system.

The second meeting included an online intervention by UNHCR in Ukraine, a detailed update on RRP progress, and preliminary findings from the first round of interviews completed in May-June for the SEIS, UNHCR's flagship data collection exercise on Ukrainian refugees. Three NGO partners, refugee-led organizations and IOM were able to showcase their work, followed by a presentation by UNHCR in Estonia. These meetings were a strong communication and advocacy opportunity with the Government and assisted in providing continued support to UNHCR and its RRP partners in Estonia.

Gaps and consequences of underfunding

Despite progress in 2025, gaps remain in humanitarian assistance provided by civil society partners to refugees from Ukraine in Estonia, due to a second year of underfunding. Only $1.6 million of the $6.4 million were raised by the end of the year, leaving a gap of just under $5 million.

Partners prioritized protection activities, such as legal assistance, counselling and community-based services. Funding gaps meant that some activities related to protection, health and digital skills were scaled back or completely cut, affecting more targeted efforts to support refugees' access to public services and resilience. Some activities that were planned at the start of the year were cancelled due to financial constraints. Among the services lost were the specialized online mental health consultations provided by Mondo, which had been essential for

[12] The number of individuals reached is an estimate based on the highest number of individuals reached per activity, per sector and/or per region, to avoid double-counting.

ensuring refugees had access to psychological support regardless of their location. Also, the development of a methodology and guidelines to support teachers in identifying and addressing negative attitudes toward refugees was not delivered. Additionally, digital inclusion efforts suffered when the E-Governance Academy's DEUCE programme was terminated; this initiative had previously supported digital literacy and deployed "digital envoys" to assist vulnerable individuals in navigating Estonia's complex digital landscape. These cuts meant that the broader community of Ukrainian refugees lost resources designed to raise awareness and provide specialized assistance for those with the greatest needs.

Among activities that were scaled back were community-based events, protection monitoring missions and communication activities.

Moreover, while cooperation with local authorities remained strong and provided valuable insights, limited resources affected consistent, strong engagements, thereby also impacting advocacy efforts. This highlights the need for increased funding to maintain and enhance the scope of humanitarian services that support national efforts in ensuring sustainable response for refugees in Estonia.

Advocacy messages

- Sustainable, predictable funding is essential to advancing the RRP progress in its final year and ensuring support to Ukrainian refugees in Estonia, complementing national efforts.
- Underfunding risks the scale-back of activities related to legal assistance and counselling and community inclusion.
- Based on the SEIS 2025 report the main three priority needs of Ukrainian refugees were employment and livelihood opportunities (31% of households with needs). Language courses followed at 14%, while 12% identified adult education and training as their main need.
- MHPSS services remain important, requiring funding alongside legal aid and community inclusion.

Coordination transition

In Estonia, RRP partners will continue to meet through different platforms. The Ministry of the Interior runs a Refugee Policy Coordination Council and a Network of Social Partners in the Field of International Protection, bringing together state agencies and NGOs working with refugees, including those from Ukraine, one to two times a year. Coordination and information-sharing will continue between UNHCR and public authorities through regular and ad-hoc meetings. The smaller roundtable of refugee organizations, led by the Estonian Refugee Council, will continue to ensure coordination and work towards aligning advocacy messaging among NGOs. Local authorities across Estonia also hold regular meetings with NGOs to discuss refugee-related issues. In addition, key actors working on migration and displacement matters (RRP partners included) meet at the annual conferences held in Estonia to discuss developments in the field.

Partner Spotlight: NGO Mondo

In a classroom at Laagna Gymnasium in Tallinn, Ukrainian refugee children take part in art therapy sessions organized by the NGO Mondo, in partnership with UNHCR. Using paint, clay, and drawing, children are able to express emotions that are often difficult to put into words after experiences of war and displacement. Guided by professional art therapists, the sessions help reduce anxiety, build self-confidence, and foster peer connection, giving children a safe space to feel calmer, and more secure. Many participants describe the therapy as a source of emotional relief, friendship, and renewed stability in their daily lives. Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, tens of thousands of

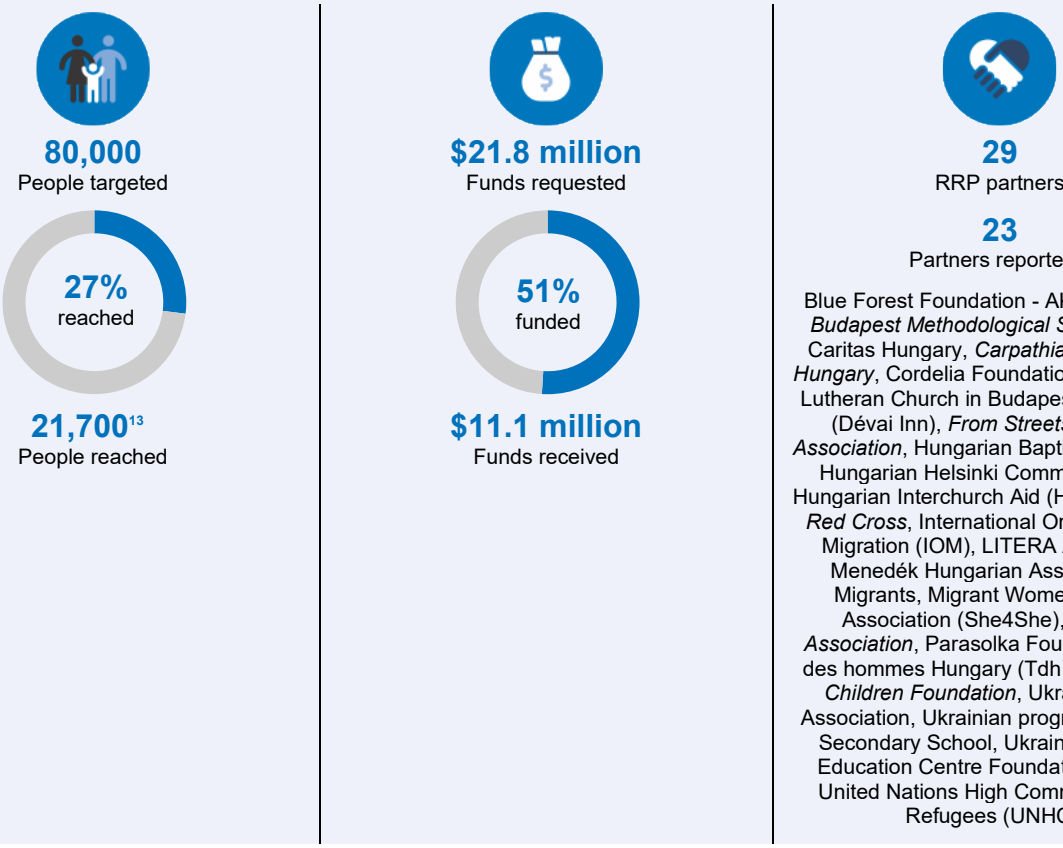
refugees have sought safety in Estonia, prompting Mondo to introduce art therapy in 2024 as part of its inclusion activities.

Developed in cooperation with Tallinn University and led by trained graduates, the programme has supported 215 refugee children nationwide from 2024-2025, with overwhelmingly positive feedback. Despite its proven impact, funding cuts in 2025 forced the programme to pause. Mondo hopes to secure new resources to continue this vital work, ensuring that more children can find healing, belonging, and resilience - one brushstroke at a time. © Kristina Pihl, UNHCR.

Country-level Outcomes

	Outcome indicators	2024	2025	Difference	
SO1: Access to protection, legal status and rights	% of HHs who have registered for temporary protection or similar scheme	82%	93%	11%	▲
SO2: Refugee inclusion in national services	% of working age (15 – 64) refugees who are employed (employment rate)	67%	75%	8%	▲
	% of refugees who are unemployed, unemployment rate (labour force)	13%	11%	-2%	▼
	Labor force participation rate (%)	78%	85%	7%	▲
	% of children reported attending formal education in host countries (not official data; based on SEIS data)	93%	99%	6%	▲
	% of individuals with access to healthcare services when needed	92%	91%	-1%	▼
	% of individuals who received MHPSS services (of those that needed support and tried to access it)	61%	66%	5%	▲
	% of individuals who accessed MHPSS and reported improved well being	95%	93%	-2%	▼
SO3: Social cohesion with host communities	% of HHs reporting good relationship with host community	77%	76%	-1%	▼
SO4: Localization of the response	% of refugee coordination structures that are led, or co-led by local and national actors	100%	100%	0%	►

HUNGARY



Progress against the strategic objectives

The vast majority of households (95%) have registered for Temporary Protection (TP), while those who did not mainly intend to transition to other legal statuses. To address challenges related to alternative residency options and solutions, an RCF meeting was held in May 2025, resulting in a recommendation note aiming at facilitating access to residency permits, including through simplified administrative procedures and improved access to information.[15]

Throughout 2025, RRP partners supported over 12,000 refugees with protection services, reaching 64% of the target. Assistance included information provision in Ukrainian, integrated case management, interpretation, and legal support. These services improved access to rights and addressed urgent protection needs through individualized follow-up.

Employment indicators showed gradual improvement, with the employment rate rising to 64% (+5% from 2024)[16], though the unemployment rate remained stable at 9%. While labour force participation among refugees is approaching that of Hungarian nationals, refugees are still twice as likely to face unemployment and more than half of them reported underemployment. Insufficient Hungarian language proficiency remains a major barrier. In response, RRP partners supported 1,400 adults with language courses and provided employment assistance to more than 1,900 individuals through counselling and job fairs.

Education enrolment also improved. During the 2024–2025 school year, 91% of children aged 3-16 were enrolled in formal education (+13% compared to 2024). This rise is partly linked to the opening of Ukrainian–Hungarian bilingual schools in Budapest and annual back-to-school campaigns. To address learning gaps, RRP partners provided catch-up lessons and Hungarian language support to around 500 children.

[13] The number of individuals reached is an estimate based on the highest number of individuals reached per activity, per sector and/or per region, to avoid double-counting.
[14] Includes 6 non-appealing partners, marked in italics: Budapest Methodological Social Center, Carpathian Foundation Hungary, Működők Association, Hungarian Red Cross, Together for Children Foundation, From Streets to Homes Association.
[15] RCF Recommendation Note on Access to Alternative Residency Pathways and Solutions for Refugees from Ukraine with Temporary Protection in Hungary: https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/118261
[16] Based on regional age cohort (15-64), country SEIS reports may vary due to application of a different age cohort.

More than 2,500 individuals received healthcare-related support, including interpretation. However, one in five household members still reported being unable to access needed healthcare, mainly due to language barriers, long waiting times, or challenges in securing appointments. Despite awareness-raising efforts on TP holders' healthcare rights, significant gaps persist.

Nearly two-thirds of individuals who needed mental health or psychosocial support were able to access formal services, though informal support from family or community remains most common. RRP partners reached over 3,300 people with MHPSS activities, but shortages continue in Ukrainian-language services and specialized providers.

Access to adequate housing remains a major challenge. The Inclusion WG updated the shelter-related Q&A in July 2025 to guide staff and volunteers on subsidized accommodation options.[17] RRP partners also supported nearly 1,000 individuals with shelter assistance, including rental support, to help refugees transition to more stable housing.

Efforts to strengthen social cohesion continued through community events and recreational activities aimed at fostering engagement and peer support. These initiatives have been effective, with almost 80% of respondents rating relations with the host community as good or very good.

Gaps and consequences of underfunding

Implementation of protection activities faced significant challenges in the first quarter of 2025 due to sudden funding cuts, which disrupted service provision. While the majority of protection services were subsequently restored, the temporary disruption had an impact on overall service coverage and required adjustments to implementation modalities to prioritize the most critical protection needs.

In addition, shifting donor priorities towards life-saving humanitarian assistance pose substantial challenges to the implementation of socio-economic inclusion activities, resulting in reduced scope and delayed implementation. As a result, RRP partners only reached around 2,000 individuals through livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions, representing less than 10% of the target set for 2025.

Finally, RRP partners aim to advance the localization of the refugee response in Hungary. However, the implementation of localization efforts in 2025 was constrained by a limited and volatile funding environment, which hindered sustained financial support for local organizations. In addition, many small and community-based partners faced capacity constraints in developing competitive and compliant funding proposals, limiting their ability to access resources.

Advocacy messages

- The RCF encourages further cooperation between government stakeholders, humanitarian actors and civil society organizations to develop and implement programmes that support the transition from TP to alternative forms of legal status.
- Sudden funding cuts in early 2025 disrupted partnerships and reduced the scope of support to local actors, highlighting the need for more predictable funding and capacity-strengthening measures for national partners.
- Organizational staff and community volunteers may increasingly encounter individuals requiring support beyond their humanitarian program's scope. To ensure consistent, rights-based, and appropriate referrals within Hungary's refugee response, the Protection WG developed inter-agency minimum referral standards.[18]
- Lack of accessible, culturally and linguistically appropriate mental health support hinders the delivery of essential psychosocial care to refugees from Ukraine, highlighting the urgent need for increased resources and trained professionals in this field.

Coordination transition

In the last year of the RRP, the refugee coordination structure in Hungary will be adjusted to reflect the increased inter-connectedness of protection and inclusion issues. The currently separate Protection and Inclusion WGs will be merged into one bi-monthly Protection and Inclusion WG, chaired by UNHCR and IOM, while co-chairing with a local NGO will be actively explored.

[17] Q&A on legislative changes affecting subsidized accommodation for the use of humanitarian staff and volunteers: https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/109799
[18] Inter-Agency Minimum Standards on Referrals: https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/117829

Quarterly RCF meetings will continue until Q1 2027 with a focus on coordination of the RRP by bringing together host government, donors, as well as RRP partners. The revised, streamlined format also aims at supporting the full integration of the RCF into fully locally-led coordination mechanisms by 2027. In particular efforts will focus on ensuring continued dialogue across stakeholders and coordination groups on key issues pertinent to the Ukraine response as well as broader refugee issues.

During this process UNHCR will actively work with NGO forums now in place and national authorities to map the transition and identify modalities of engagement and support beyond 2026.

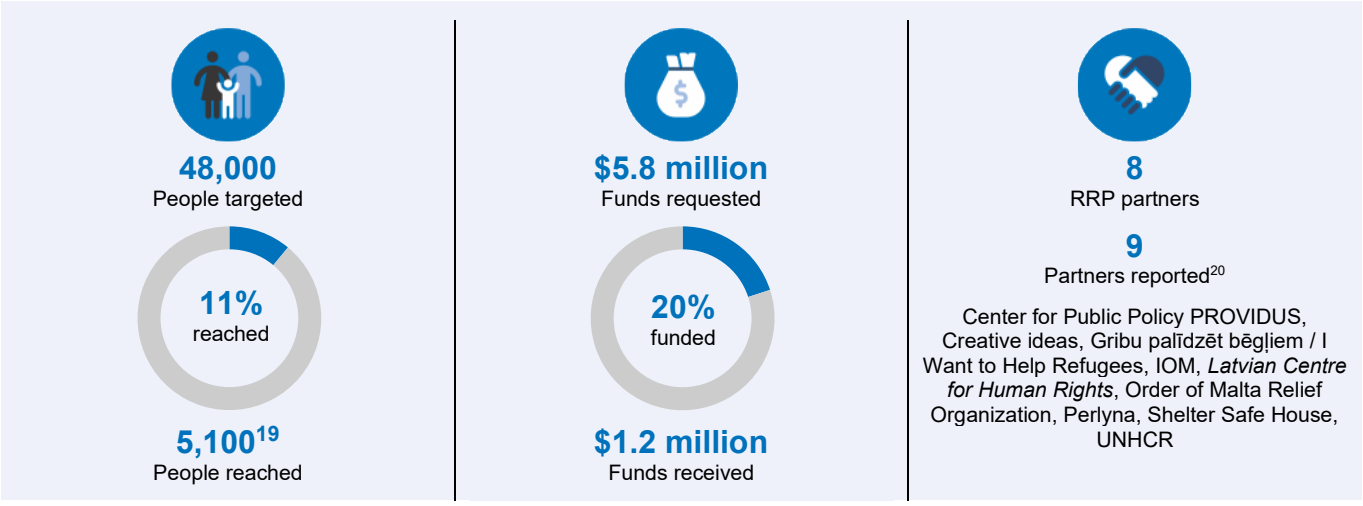
Partner Spotlight: Terre des hommes (Tdh) Hungary

In 2025, Tdh continued its work to contribute to the successful integration of Ukrainian refugee children and their families within the framework of four projects. The NGO successfully finished the Building Bridges project funded by the Swiss State Secretariat of Migration and started two projects in May supported by the European Social Fund (RIF4UA and YoU Decide), and one more project in September funded by the Villum Foundation (EmpowerED). Through its Resilience Innovation Facilities in Budapest (and until April 2025 in Győr), Tdh focused on providing educational and socio-economic opportunities to refugee children and youth. Youth-led initiatives targeting both refugee and host community youth proved to be a successful way of empowering them. In 2025 Tdh also provided activities focusing on digital and social skills development for adults as well. Labour integration activities such as individual and group counselling sessions, language courses and job-seeking workshops were also available for Ukrainian refugees, while social work assistance was provided to beneficiaries. © Terre des hommes Hungary

Country-level Outcomes

	Outcome indicators	2024	2025	Difference	
SO1: Access to protection, legal status and rights	% of HHs who have registered for temporary protection or similar scheme	92%	95%	3%	▲
SO2: Refugee inclusion in national services	% of working age (15 – 64) refugees who are employed (employment rate)	59%	64%	5%	▲
	% of refugees who are unemployed, unemployment rate (labour force)	10%	9%	-1%	▼
	Labor force participation rate (%)	69%	73%	4%	▲
	% of children (3 – 16) reported attending formal education in host countries (not official data; based on SEIS data)	84%	91%	7%	▲
	% of individuals with access to healthcare services when needed	82%	78%	-4%	▼
	% of individuals who received formal MHPSS services (of those that needed support and tried to access it)	58%	64%	6%	▲
	% of individuals who accessed formal MHPSS and reported improved well being	94%	84%	-10%	▼
SO3: Social cohesion with host communities	% of HHs reporting good relationship with host community	78%	77%	-1%	▼
SO4: Localization of the response	% of refugee coordination structures that are led, or co-led by local and national actors	0%	0%	0%	►

LATVIA



Progress against the strategic objectives

In 2025, partners prioritized addressing basic needs, ensuring access to legal and protection services, and supporting socioeconomic inclusion, through language learning, as well as mental health and psychosocial well-being.

Partners supported more than 5,000 refugees with protection and assistance over the course of the year. Over 500 refugees received legal assistance and consultations on relocation, employment, and family reunification. More than 1,000 individuals benefited from access to information services on the support available to refugees. Partners maintained active involvement in policy development and advocacy for refugee rights and support services, such as accessibility and increased quality of the state language courses, mainstreaming refugee children from Ukraine into the national education system and continuing accommodation support for vulnerable groups. Several research projects were carried out on the role of municipalities in receiving and including refugees from Ukraine, and more than 500 interviews were conducted as part of protection profiling and monitoring, as well as the Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS).

Some 800 refugees, including children, received language classes and learning assistance, facilitating their integration into local communities and the labour market.

Partners ensured access to individual or group counselling, therapy sessions, trauma-informed care, and stress management strategies to over 500 individuals, including children.

Two in-person coordination meetings, led by UNHCR, were held for RRP partners. The main focus of the first meeting was the presentation and update by the Ministry of Interior on the situation of Ukrainians in Latvia. The meeting was attended by all RRP partners and the Social Integration Fund (SIF) as well as the Ministry of Interior.

The second meeting included a detailed update on the progress of the RRP, preliminary findings from the first round of interviews completed in May-June for SEIS, UNHCR's flagship data collection exercise on Ukrainian refugees; and three NGOs, refugee-led organizations, and IOM were able to showcase their work to donors and diplomats, followed by a presentation by UNHCR in Latvia. These meetings were a strong communication and advocacy opportunity with the Government and enabled continued support to RRP partners in Latvia.

Gaps and consequences of underfunding

In 2025, only 20 percent of the required $5.8 million for the Ukraine RRP in Latvia was funded. This funding gap had an impact on the capacity of partners to extend and expand their activities and support services in Latvia, in particular. The implementation of long-term livelihoods and socio-economic inclusion activities. Further investment is needed in more targeted language courses and health, in particular mental health services, especially outside of Riga, to advance economic self-reliance and to ensure well-being. The lack of resources has meant that support to

[19] The number of individuals reached is an estimate based on the highest number of individuals reached per activity, per sector and/or per region, to avoid double-counting.
[20] Includes 1 non-appealing partner, marked in italics: Latvian Centre for Human Rights.

vulnerable groups remains limited. Increased funding is crucial to ensure the inclusion of all refugees and to help them become part of Latvia's society.

Advocacy messages

- Sustainable, predictable funding is essential to advancing the RRP progress in its final year and ensuring support to Ukrainian refugees in Latvia, complementing national efforts.
- Support is needed for more targeted and sustainable language learning, vocational training and employment inclusion.
- Additional resources for education, including teacher training, language learning and other targeted support for refugee children to facilitate their inclusion in the national education system are required.
- Access to information services and legal counselling should be enhanced especially in view of the upcoming transition from Temporary Protection status.
- Accessible MHPSS services should be prioritized to foster a safe environment for refugees.

Coordination transition

In Latvia, a national NGO, “I want to help refugees (GPB)” holds online weekly meetings for all actors working on the Ukrainian response – this extends beyond just the RRP partners and includes respective state authorities. UNHCR will coordinate RRP partner meetings that include the nodal ministries – such as the Ministry of Interior – in 2026. The meetings serve as a platform to share information and updates on the RRP, coordinate responses and are an opportunity to meet in person to network. In addition, coordination and information-sharing will continue between UNHCR and public authorities through regular and ad-hoc meetings.

Partner Spotlight: GBP Information Point

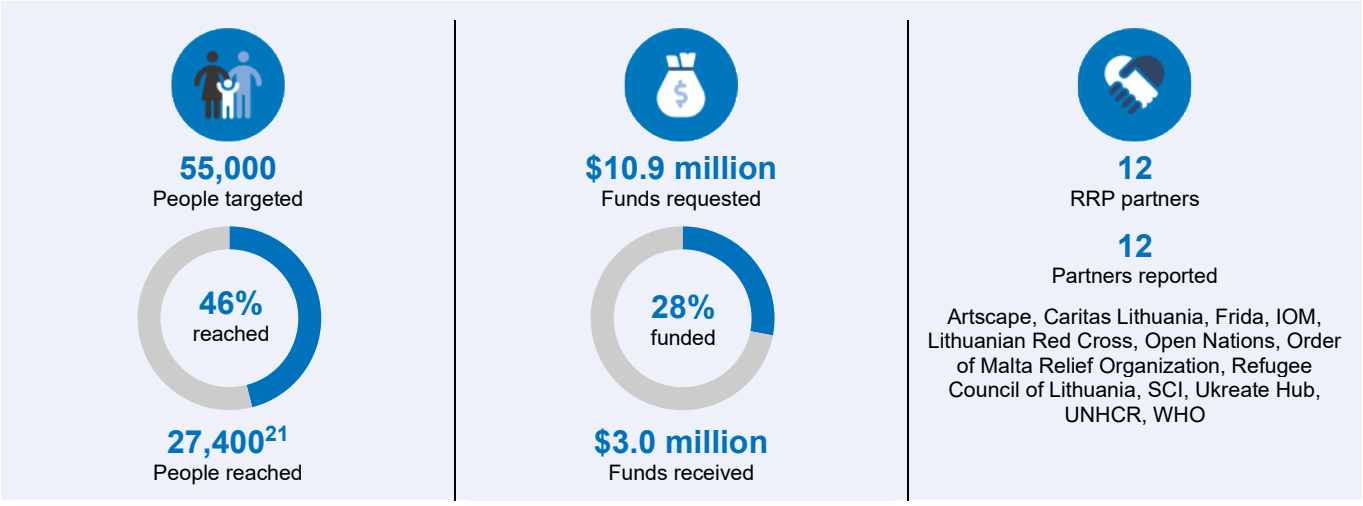
GPB continued to provide information services throughout 2025: in total, the GPB Information Point provided over 1,400 consultations and gathered 198 SEIS interviews. In addition, GBP conducted eight monitoring visits to different municipalities to assess the situation of Ukrainian refugees on the ground.

Apart from information services and monitoring, GPB was active in providing integration activities: 152 elder Ukrainians enhanced their digital competence, while cultural awareness courses and other cultural activities reached almost 1,000 refugees from Ukraine. GPB continued coordination, public awareness and advocacy initiatives. In November, GPB organized the annual stakeholders meeting bringing together more than 60 participants from state and municipal authorities, academia, media, NGOs and refugee community. Throughout the year more than 60 advocacy interventions regarding Ukrainian refugees were conducted including weekly meetings organized for NGOs who support Ukrainian refugees in Latvia. ©Nataliia Soldatova

Country-level Outcomes

	Outcome indicators	2024	2025	Difference	
SO1: Access to protection, legal status and rights	% of HHs who have registered for temporary protection or similar scheme	86%	99%	13%	▲
SO2: Refugee inclusion in national services	% of working age (15 – 64) refugees who are employed (employment rate)	53%	66%	13%	▲
	% of refugees who are unemployed, unemployment rate (labour force)	12%	13%	1%	▲
	Labor force participation rate (%)	62%	81%	19%	▲
	% of children (6 – 15) reported attending formal education in host countries (not official data; based on SEIS data)	65%	85%	20%	▲
	% of individuals with access to healthcare services when needed	95%	89%	-6%	▼
	% of individuals who received MHPSS services (of those that needed support and tried to access it)	50%	76%	26%	▲
	% of individuals who accessed MHPSS and reported improved well being	87%	84%	-3%	▼
SO3: Social cohesion with host communities	% of HHs reporting good relationship with host community	80%	76%	-4%	▼
SO4: Localization of the response	% of refugee coordination structures that are led, or co-led by local and national actors	75%	75%	0%	►

LITHUANIA



Progress against the strategic objectives

In 2025, RRP partners supported more than 6,600 refugees. Of these, 2,300 were provided with individual social counselling, 770 received legal counselling and 3,300 participated in community-based protection events. These included information sessions, language clubs, and community events. Furthermore, more than 200 children participated in regular psychosocial support activities provided by UNHCR partners.

To enable evidence-based planning and coordination, interviews with refugee households were conducted as part of the 2025 Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS). Data collection took place in two rounds, with the second round in September–October 2025. The population of interest included all households of refugees from Ukraine settled in all ten counties of Lithuania.

Two in-person coordination meetings, led by UNHCR, were held for RRP partners. The first meeting included updates on the progress of the RRP, an update from each of the RRP partners in Lithuania and an intervention by the UNHCR Lithuania team on activities. The Ministry of Social Services and Labour reported on the situation of Ukrainians in Lithuania.

The second meeting included an online intervention by UNHCR in Ukraine, a detailed update on RRP progress, and initial findings from the SEIS report. Further, three NGO partners, refugee-led organizations and IOM showcased their work, followed by a presentation by UNHCR in Lithuania. These meetings were a strong communication and advocacy opportunity with the Government and allowed continued support to UNHCR and its RRP partners in Latvia/Lithuania/Estonia

Limited resources affected the overall RRP response in support of the Government efforts, which highlights the need for increased funding to maintain and enhance the scope of humanitarian services that support national efforts in ensuring sustainable response for refugees in Lithuania.

Gaps and consequences of underfunding

The funding shortfalls and operational challenges in 2025 resulted in significant gaps in humanitarian assistance provided by civil society partners to refugees from Ukraine in Lithuania. By the end of the year, only $2.8 million of the required $10.8 million had been raised, leaving an $8.1 million funding gap. This impacted humanitarian protection, education, livelihoods and inclusion activities, limiting partners' ability to fully implement planned programmes and meet the diverse needs of the refugee population.

Funding continues to be required for protection, basic needs, health, and inclusion. Economic assistance remains essential as vulnerable households continue to face financial difficulties. As most Ukrainian adult refugees arriving in Lithuania are women with primary caregiving responsibilities, the financial strain on them is at risk of increasing.

[21] The number of individuals reached is an estimate based on the highest number of individuals reached per activity, per sector and/or per region, to avoid double-counting.

Advocacy messages

- Sustainable, predictable funding is essential to advancing the RRP progress in its final year and ensuring support to Ukrainian refugees in Lithuania, together with national efforts.
- Support is needed for protection services such as legal assistance, for instance about receiving or extending legal status in the country, and ensuring that refugees can access their rights and support systems.
- Employment and livelihoods support, and language training opportunities, as well as addressing basic needs of vulnerable populations, need to be prioritized to ensure the longer-term inclusion of refugees and their economic independence.
- Assistance for accessing health support is key to ensuring the effective and meaningful social and economic inclusion of refugees.

Coordination transition

In Lithuania**,** discussions with the Ministry of Social Services and Labour (MSSL) to initiate the RRP partner meetings for 2026 are necessary to re-start the process. The Ministry has a large number of stakeholders that they invite along with RRP partners. In 2025, this platform was not active given changes in government so UNHCR initiated the RRP partner and donor briefings, with active support from MSSL.

Partner Spotlight: Open Nations

In 2025, Open Nations, led by Ukrainian refugee women, implemented a range of family-centred and community-based programmes in Ukraine and Lithuania. The organization delivered three “Family as a Pillar” rehabilitation camps for Ukrainian families from frontline regions, providing psychosocial support to 180 participants. Also, three family integration camps brought together Ukrainian and Lithuanian families across three regions, engaging 250 participants in activities promoting trust-building and social connection.

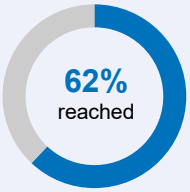
Open Nations also strengthened community leadership and dialogue capacities by conducting the first Nansen-method community dialogue facilitation training for 15 Ukrainian community leaders, in cooperation with the Nansen Center for Peace and Dialogue. In addition, the organization produced “Uoda kava. Welcome anyway”, a documentary musical performance with facilitated dialogues, presented in Vilnius, Kaunas, Visaginas, and Klaipėda, engaging 300 participants through arts-based reflection on integration and identity. To support parental resilience, Open Nations delivered a four-day online practicum “Parenthood That Holds”, reaching Ukrainian families from 10 European countries and 13 cities in Ukraine. The organization also hosted 15 community-building events focused on psychosocial well-being, integration, and community development, reaching approximately 450 participants. Through these initiatives, Open Nations contributed to psychosocial recovery, social cohesion, and inclusive community-building for displaced populations and host communities. © Tata Lark

Country-level Outcomes

	Outcome indicators	2024	2025	Difference	
SO1: Access to protection, legal status and rights	% of HHs who have registered for temporary protection or similar scheme	79%	95%	16%	▲
SO2: Refugee inclusion in national services	% of working age (15 – 64) refugees who are employed (employment rate)	50%	48%	-2%	▼
	% of refugees who are unemployed, unemployment rate (labour force)	16%	28%	12%	▲
	Labor force participation rate (%)	60%	68%	8%	▲
	% of children (6 – 15) reported attending formal education in host countries (not official data; based on SEIS data)	85%	77%	-8%	▼
	% of individuals with access to healthcare services when needed	84%	89%	5%	▲
	% of individuals who received MHPSS services (of those that needed support and tried to access it)	66%	79%	13%	▲
	% of individuals who accessed MHPSS and reported improved well being	88%	99%	11%	▲
SO3: Social cohesion with host communities	% of HHs reporting good relationship with host community	72%	78%	6%	▲
SO4: Localization of the response	% of refugee coordination structures that are led, or co-led by local and national actors	100%	100%	0%	►

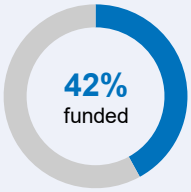
MOLDOVA

142,000
People targeted



87,600[22]
People reached

$205.5 million
Funds requested



$85.9 million
Funds received

62
RRP partners

69
Partners reported[23]

ADRA, *Acted*, *Alliance of NGOs Active in the field of Child and Family Social Protection*, *Amici Dei Bambini Moldova*, *AO Artemida*, AO Biaz Gul, AO Padurea noastra, *AO Centrul de Drept al Avocatilor/ Law Center of Advocates*, *AO Pas cu Pas regiunea Sud*, AO SOS AUTISM, *Casa Marioarei*, CRS, *Center for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, *Center Resonance*, Centru de reabilitare "OSORC", *Centrul Național de Formare-Asistență-Consiliere și Educație din Moldova*, *Centrul Național de Prevenire a Abuzului față de Copii*, *Centrul pentru Politici-Inițiative și Cercetări "Platforma"*, *Charity Centre for Refugees*, *Child and Family Empowerment Association "AVE Copiii"*, CERI, CWS, *Clinica Juridica Balti*, *Communitas AO*, *Diaconia*, *Diakonia Katastrophenhilfe*, Dorcas, Female Support Force, *Fondation de France*, Fundatia "Don Bosco", Fundația "Regina Pacis", *Fundația Crestina Titus*, *Gender Center*, HEKS/EPER, *Health for Youth Association*, Helvetas, HelpAge, HIAS, Humanitarian Aid Center of the Jewish Community of Moldova, IFIS, INTERSOS, IOM, *KeyStone Moldova*, Laolalta, *MOTIVATIE*, National Congress of Ukranians in Moldova, *Non-Profit Partnership Center for Social and Legal Innovations "Women's Initiatives"*, NRC, PIN, Plan International, *Pro Didactica*, Project HOPE, *RCTV Memoria*, *ROMNI*, *Speranța Terrei*, Tdh, *The Ombudsman Office*, UN Women, *Union of Young Roma "Tarna Rom"*, *Uniunea pentru Echitate si Sanatate*, UNICEF, UNDP, UNHCR, UNFPA, WeWorld, WFP, WHO, WVI, *Zdorovii Gorod*

Progress against the strategic objectives

By December 2025, the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) in the Republic of Moldova continued a shift toward a more sustainable approach, marked by closer alignment with national systems and the operationalization of Government-led inclusion frameworks. Inter-agency efforts focused on supporting national structures and maintaining access to essential services for refugees and vulnerable host community members, even within a context of constrained funding.

At the policy level, the Government began implementation of the National Programme for the Integration of Foreigners (2025–2027). The programme sets sector priorities for access to services, language learning, vocational training, housing and labour market participation, including measures on recognition of qualifications. While implementation remains resource-dependent, the programme provides a common reference for aligning humanitarian support with nationally-led inclusion objectives. To support implementation, the Inclusion and Solutions Working Group (ISWG) was established under the Refugee Coordination Forum. The ISWG strengthened strategic dialogue across humanitarian and development actors, translating policy commitments into an initial roadmap linked to the National Programme.

[22] The number of individuals reached is an estimate based on the highest number of individuals reached per activity, per sector and/or per region, to avoid double-counting.
[23] Includes non-appealing partners, marked in italics.

Legal predictability was reinforced through the Government's initiation of the extension of Temporary Protection until March 2027, ensuring continued access to core services. Concurrently, refugee survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) were included in Ministry of Labour policies regulating access to life-saving services, including safe shelters, and in prevention programmes aimed at promoting respect for women and girls. Inter-agency contingency planning was also updated to reflect evolving risk scenarios and support preparedness.

In education, the Ministry of Education and Research, with RRP partner support, advanced implementation of the Roadmap for the full integration of refugee children into the education system (2025–2026). This costed framework addresses enrolment, language support, teacher capacity, and infrastructure needs. To strengthen enrolment monitoring, the Ministry, with technical support from the co-chairs of the Refugee Education Working Group, introduced an education module in the Temporary Protection extension form, enabling basic monitoring of refugee children enrolled in Moldovan schools versus those continuing remote education.

Moldova's health sector advanced the transition from emergency aid to sustainable inclusion of refugees by integrating them into national policies, expanding access to the national health insurance package, and strengthening service delivery. Financial sustainability and continuity of care were reinforced through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund and coordinated national efforts, including expanded rehabilitation services for refugee children.

Findings from the 2025 Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS) confirmed generally stable refugee–host community relations and high awareness of services, while identifying persistent vulnerabilities among specific population groups, informing continued prioritization.

Gaps and consequences of underfunding

Funding remains the most significant constraint affecting implementation of the RRP in the Republic of Moldova, directly impacting the scale, quality, and predictability of assistance. In 2025, partners prioritized cash-based interventions to mitigate immediate risks, yet funding shortfalls necessitated tighter prioritization criteria and a gradual reduction in the overall caseload. Consequently, more refugees faced intermittent support, while Women-Led Organizations struggled to address service gaps for GBV survivors amidst short-term financing.

Several sectors faced serious setbacks due to these resource limitations. Education saw the implementation of the Government-approved Inclusion Roadmap delayed, limiting Romanian language support and slowing formal enrolment. In Health, declining external funding increased pressure on the national system, creating gaps in specialized care and rehabilitation despite integration efforts. This affected the provision of MHPSS support, with only some 10,000 individuals being covered by MHPSS services and activities. Protection capacities weakened as funding cuts reduced mobile teams and safe spaces, hindering support for GBV survivors and at-risk children. Similarly, disability and age services faced downsizing, widening gaps for refugees with high-dependency profiles.

While Government leadership on refugee inclusion strengthened, progress remains constrained by limited fiscal space and competing national priorities, despite refugees' increasing contributions to the national economy. The transition to national systems has slowed; the State cannot yet fully absorb recurrent costs, forcing a continued reliance on humanitarian resources. This dynamic risks delaying development-oriented solutions.

Underfunding has also affected preparedness and response capacity. Resource constraints forced a scaling back of presence in strategic entry points like Otaci and Palanca, increasing risks during sudden arrivals from Ukraine. Maintaining minimum capacity at these borders remains critical. At the same time, Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs) face structural challenges and are being progressively closed down. The remaining residents have high-dependency needs and limited self-reliance prospects, making it difficult to maintain dignified living conditions without adequate funding.

Structural barriers to employment – including language requirements, non-recognition of qualifications, challenges with entrepreneurial start-ups, care responsibilities, and health-related constraints – continue to slow socio-economic inclusion. Addressing these barriers at scale requires stronger engagement of development actors to support Government-led inclusion and solutions initiatives. Without predictable, multi-year financing and enhanced responsibility-sharing, there is a risk that vulnerabilities will deepen, and transition gains will stall, increasing longer-term costs for both humanitarian and national systems.

Advocacy messages

- Support Government leadership and commitment to refugee inclusion by complementing national efforts with predictable, multi-year international financing aligned with the Global Compact on Refugees.
- Empower Government to advance solutions by offsetting short-term fiscal constraints through development

financing and technical support, rather than substituting humanitarian resources for public funding.

- Sustain protection for the most vulnerable, including targeted cash and specialized services provided by local partners through sustainable funding, while national systems progressively expand capacity.
- Increase childcare infrastructure and facilitate access to family crèches and alternative childcare solutions to reduce caregiving burdens and enable participation in employment and livelihoods.
- Maintain minimum operational and surge capacity, particularly at key border locations, to manage volatility and ensure preparedness for potential new arrivals.
- Advance inclusion as an investment with net benefits over time, recognizing refugees' growing contributions to the economy through employment, consumption and taxes, and supporting Government-led measures that accelerate self-reliance and reduce future assistance needs.

Coordination transition

In 2025, RRP partners streamlined coordination to promote the shift toward Government-led inclusion and reduced humanitarian footprints. Building on coordination rationalization initiated in 2024, the Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) further streamlined its structure to reduce duplication while preserving technical oversight. The Gender-Based Violence and Child Protection sub-working groups were integrated into the Protection Working Group, and the Basic Needs and Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion Working Groups were merged into a single Inclusion and Solutions Working Group (ISWG), co-chaired by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.

Sectoral coordination formalized transitions to line ministries through key frameworks, notably the Ministry of Education's Inclusion Roadmap and the Ministry of Health's integration plan, which shifted financing to the National Health Insurance Company. Through the ISWG, RRP partners jointly supported operational follow-up to the National Programme for the Phased Integration of Foreigners by developing sequenced tools, including a Roadmap for the Integration of Refugees into Social Protection and a Partner Action Plan aligning humanitarian and development contributions and identifying remaining gaps requiring additional support. Coordination also strengthened engagement with the UN Country Team to better integrate refugee inclusion within UN development planning frameworks.

Specialized coordination also transitioned: the Anti-Trafficking Task Force was absorbed by the Permanent Secretariat's Counter-Trafficking Technical Coordination Group, the Roma Task Force continued under the Agency for Inter-Ethnic Relations, and the PSEA Network coordination was transferred to the UN Resident Coordinator's Office.

At the local level, leadership of Local Refugee Coordination Forums was progressively transferred to local organizations in seven regions through an inclusive handover process, supported by targeted capacity-building. Localization efforts were further reinforced through a structured capacity-building programme for national and local partners, enhancing their ability to lead coordination, advocacy, and inclusion initiatives.

Partner Spotlight: AVE Copiii

Myroslav, a seven-year-old refugee with cerebral palsy who fled Ukraine with his mother, now wakes each morning with a smile as light fills their Taraclia home in Moldova.

With support from AVE Copiii, UNICEF, and the European Union, Myroslav received access to emergency child protection assistance and was successfully referred to social and educational services to support his needs on a long-term basis. He is gradually learning letters and colours as teachers visit weekly. ''Every small step is a victory'' says Myroslav's mother.

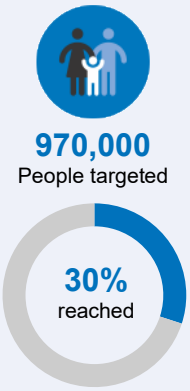
Myroslav's story illustrates how strengthened child protection response systems are supporting refugee children and helping vulnerable families rebuild hope, stability, and a future. © OHCHR / Vincent Tremeau

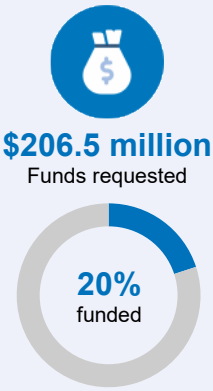
Country-level Outcomes

	Outcome indicators	2024	2025[24]	Difference	
SO1: Access to protection, legal status and rights	% of HHs who have registered for temporary protection or similar scheme	91%	98%	7%	▲
SO2: Refugee inclusion in national services	% of working age (15 – 64) refugees who are employed (employment rate)	45%	45%	0%	►
	% of refugees who are unemployed, unemployment rate (labour force)	19%	10%	-9%	▼
	Labor force participation rate (%)	56%	52%	-4%	▼
	% of children (6-15) reported attending formal education in host countries (not official data; based on SEIS data)	60%	71%[25]	11%	▲
	% of individuals with access to healthcare services when needed	88%	99%	11%	▲
	% of individuals who received MHPSS services (of those that needed support and tried to access it)	64%	79%	15%	▲
	% of individuals who accessed MHPSS and reported improved well being	91%	81%	-10%	▼
SO3: Social cohesion with host communities	% of HHs reporting good relationship with host community	88%	90%	2%	▲
SO4: Localization of the response	% of refugee coordination structures that are led, or co-led by local and national actors	83%	88%	5%	▲

[24] The Temporary Protection figures may not totally reflect the number of refugees with TP status, due to the sampling method used. The SESI socio-economic indicators reflected here may differ from the country report due to different age cohorts used, please refer to Moldova SEIS report, https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/120417.
[25] The SEIS indicator for children attending school is higher than the actual number of refugee children in school due to the sampling method used, and the difference between the mandatory school age used in Moldova and the regional age cohort (6-15).

POLAND





77
RRP partners

35
Partners reported

Armia Zbawienia/The Salvation Army, CARE, Eleon - pomocne dłonie dla Ukrainy, European Lawyers in Lesvos (ELIL), Fundacja Avalon, Fundacja Centrum Współpracy Międzynarodowej Germanitas, Fundacja Inicjatywa Dom Otwarty, Fundacja Inicjatyw Społeczno-Ekonomicznych, Fundacja Instytut Praw Pacjenta i Edukacji Zdrowotnej, Fundacja Polki Mogą Wszystko, Fundacja Q, Fundacja Right to Protection, Fundacja Ukraina, Fundacja "Ukraiński Dom", Habitat for Humanity Poland, International Orthodox Christian Charities, International Rescue Committee, Kalejdoskop Kultur, Kids in Need of Defense, Klub Inteligencji Katolickiej w Warszawie, Maria Grzegorzewska University, Plan International, Polish Center for International Aid, Polish Humanitarian Action, Polish Migration Forum Foundation, Polish Red Cross (Polski Czerwony Krzyż) & International Federation of Red Cross, Project HOPE Poland, Społeczny Komitet ds. AIDS (SKA)/Social AIDS Committee, Stowarzyszenie Projektów Międzynarodowych "Logos Polska", Towards Dialogue Foundation, UN International Organisation for Migration, UN World Health Organisation, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Population Fund

Progress against the strategic objectives

In 2025, RRP partners continued supporting government efforts to advance long-term solutions for refugees from Ukraine, focusing on sustained protection, access to national services, and greater inclusion. Protection partners reached some 77,000 refugees with information on services and rights through group sessions, individual support, mobile outreach, helplines, and online platforms. Close to 10,000 refugees received one-on-one legal counselling. A total of 41,000 persons with specific needs received protection assistance, while 2,300 people were trained on protection principles and 135 humanitarian staff and volunteers on international protection, child protection (CP), and gender-based violence (GBV). Partners developed an Action Plan to counter anti-refugee narratives and a protection-focused advocacy toolkit.[27]

GBV partners reached 64,000 refugees with awareness-raising to prevent and mitigate GBV, and 500 women and adolescent girls participated in empowerment and life skills initiatives. 270 humanitarian and government personnel received training on GBV prevention, response, and risk mitigation. In total, over 2,200 refugees accessed individual GBV case management support. As in previous years, partners coordinated the national 16 Days of Activism Against GBV campaign, delivering over 20 activities in collaboration with civil society, local authorities, and humanitarian actors.

Child protection actors provided individual case management to close to 4,000 refugee children and safe-space

[26] The number of individuals reached is an estimate based on the highest number of individuals reached per activity, per sector and/or per region in each quarter to avoid double-counting.
[27] See Document - Poland: Protection Sector - Countering Anti-Refugee narratives and incidents (30 September 2025).

support to 7,210. Among children at risk, 1,200 unaccompanied children accessed alternative care arrangements, and 1,700 children were referred to specialized services. Over 1,200 people, including national authorities and civil society organizations, were trained in child protection and children's rights. Priorities included safeguarding standards, foster care, and supporting evacuated children without parental care. Independent living remained a key governmental priority, enabling the rollout of a nationwide programme supporting economic and housing independence for residents of collective sites. Implemented jointly with two national NGOs and RRP partners, it demonstrated effective government–civil society cooperation. Collaboration also expanded on legal amendments affecting refugees, ensuring efficient advocacy for vulnerable groups.

Refugees made progress toward self-reliance, with increasing access to legal, stable, and skills-matched employment. However, structural barriers persist, including discrimination, inconsistent employment standards, and limited tailored support for groups such as youth, older refugees, and single mothers.

The PSEA-AAP Network strengthened coordination through joint activities, standardized tools, referral SOPs, and a maintained pool of trained investigators. Eighty personnel received PSEA refresher training and 40 were trained on AAP and community feedback mechanisms.

Health partners advanced RRP strategic objectives by combining direct service delivery with national system strengthening, capacity building, and advocacy. Trainings addressed infectious disease prevention, international health regulations, hospital safety, vaccine communication, and GBV. New national clinical guidelines on tuberculosis and GBV survivor care were introduced. Efforts also supported closing vaccination gaps, strengthening risk communication, and expanding screening and linkage to care for infectious diseases, alongside preparedness interventions.

MHPSS remained a cross-cutting priority. An active Technical Working Group conducted meetings, surveys, and interviews to support transition to national leadership. In October, a WHO-led roundtable with the Ministry of Health resulted in the establishment of a national MHPSS Working Group in November, marking a shift toward nationally led coordination.

Ukrainian student enrolment remained stable at over 195,000, though dropout rates reached 35% among secondary students after grade two.[28] The Back to Learning campaign, developed by the Education Sector, encouraged continued education, while partners engaged in the Ministry's Working Group and monitored the Friendly School programme. Upcoming legislative changes, however, might impact the continuity of intercultural assistant roles essential to inclusion efforts.

Gaps and consequences of underfunding

In 2025, underfunding significantly reduced access to information and counselling for persons with specific needs, particularly in collective accommodation sites and remote areas, due to fewer mobile field activities. Persons with disabilities continued to face long waiting times for disability certification, and some older refugees struggled to access pensions. Funding for women's and LGBTIQ+ rights decreased sharply, forcing many organizations to close or reduce activities. Specialist GBV staff were lost, and civil society faced growing financial strain amid rising anti-refugee sentiment.

Key protection risks for girls included psychological and physical violence in communities, increased exposure to online harm, and heightened vulnerability to abuse. For boys, reports of psychological – and increasingly physical – violence rose. Data on Temporary Protection registrations showed an increase in male adolescents arriving in Poland, linked to changes in conscription laws in Ukraine. More unaccompanied adolescents also arrived for education, creating new protection needs. Persistent challenges included strengthening alternative care and family based foster care systems, and supporting the social inclusion of vulnerable children, especially those in collective centres, unaccompanied or separated children, children with disabilities, and Roma children. Additional support remains necessary for temporary guardians, family assistants, and child friendly justice systems.

Funding shortages also hindered PSEA and AAP efforts. Several specialized functions within member organizations were discontinued, and insufficient resources paused the Inter-Agency SEA Risk Assessment initiated in late 2024. Limited capacity of complaint and feedback mechanisms was identified as a major challenge.

Organizations supporting highly vulnerable residents of collective centres reported the most severe impacts, as reduced staff and programming limited assistance for those facing significant inclusion barriers and dependency.

[28] See report published by the Centre for Citizenship Education and the International Rescue Committee, 'Foreign students in Polish schools in the 2024/2025 school year'.

Many international NGOs phased out operations, while local NGOs scaled down activities.

Cuts to essential enabling measures, including vocational and specialized language training, qualification recognition, labour market information, and financial services, restricted refugees' ability to transition to sustainable employment. Without these investments, risks of informality, working poverty, and long-term dependency increased.

Health services also faced growing risks due to unpredictable funding. Despite progress in integrating refugees into national systems, gains remained fragile without continued financing for outreach, screening, patient navigation, and system-strengthening activities. Reductions threatened detection and treatment continuity for TB, HIV, hepatitis, and STIs, increasing public health risks. Limited Polish proficiency also restricted refugees' access to quality mental health support. Legislative changes on 30 September 2025 further reduced access to healthcare for uninsured adult refugees, removing eligibility for rehabilitation, dental care, specific surgeries, reimbursed medicines, and advanced treatments. While children remained fully covered, the reduced benefits for adults risked worsening chronic conditions, increasing emergency service use, and reversing progress made on health inclusion. Funding shortages also forced WHO to suspend four planned MHPSS projects. The MHPSS Working Group adjusted its priorities to focus on partnership building and national ownership, though financial gaps halted further training and slowed progress strengthening activities.

In education, concerns grew about Ukrainian adolescents who completed Ukrainian exams at 16 but did not finish compulsory schooling in Poland, with no system to track their next steps. Barriers included limited Polish language skills, insufficient career guidance, and weak support during key educational transitions. Bullying and limited mental health support continued to affect Ukrainian students.

Advocacy messages

- As Poland navigates legislative changes, prioritizing legal protection, social protection and inclusion will not only benefit refugees but also strengthen communities as a whole. It continues to be imperative to protect refugees' legal status and access to documentation, ensure access to social protection safety nets and services, including education, comprehensive healthcare, gender-based violence response and mental health support, as well as legal access to employment and effective protection against discrimination and hate-motivated crimes. Special protection measures are also needed for unaccompanied and separated children, those living in collective accommodation centres as well as for the Roma community.
- Systemic and coordinated support with Ukrainian authorities for the most vulnerable groups residing in collective centres is required to provide long-term solutions enabling dignified housing and care for people unable to become independent (elderly, persons with disabilities, children without care, single mothers). Enhanced oversight of living conditions in government-funded collective shelters.
- Urgent legal clarity on the longer-term residency status of Ukrainian refugees is critical to unlock sustainable economic inclusion, as uncertainty undermines refugees' life planning and discourages employers from offering stable, formal employment contracts.
- Without sustained funding, progress on inclusion of refugees into national systems will fail undermining continuity of care, and system efficiency. Local organizations, which provide frontline support, cannot operate without stable funding. Ensuring access to essential healthcare for refugees upholds human rights, prevents deepening inequalities, and contributes to social cohesion and long-term resilience for Poland.
- MHPSS remains a key priority, with progress in integrating refugee mental health support into Poland's national system. Civil society and mental health community-based care providers are at the core of the new structure. Further support for the process is needed. Funding gaps risk leaving vulnerable refugees without psychological support and cultural adaptation services. Lack of new dedicated funding undermines the progress towards inclusion and wellbeing of both refugees and host communities.
- Several NGO-run "Saturday schools," recognized by the Ukrainian Ministry of Education, provided Ukrainian curriculum components not covered in the Polish system. Despite limited space restricting their capacity, these schools played a crucial role in preserving cultural links and supporting education in 2025.
- The PSEA-AAP Network urges humanitarian actors, government authorities, and law enforcement in Poland to jointly uphold and enforce national PSEA standards, including preventive measures such as robust vetting and background checks, and to work collaboratively to ensure that forcibly displaced people are informed of and able to safely access trusted channels to report misconduct.

Coordination transition

In Poland, the Refugee Coordination Model will maintain a streamlined structure while reinforcing the Voivodeship-

level coordination platforms co-chaired by the local authorities and national NGOs in key border areas (Lubelskie and Podkarpackie), as well as in major refugee-hosting regions (Małopolskie). In 2026, the focus will shift toward consolidation and transition, with the regional platforms evolving into broader mechanisms for protection, inclusion and emergency preparedness, linked to the Voivodeship structures. At the national level, co-chairing responsibilities for sectors and working groups will progressively transition to national NGOs and when possible government entities, prioritizing those with nationwide coverage.

The architecture will remain fit for purpose, with consolidation into the sectors that are the centre of the refugee response – Protection and Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion - which may be retained beyond the RRP period to ensure continuity of coordination between civil society and government actors for refugee protection and inclusion. In parallel, partners will work closely with line ministries to adapt and transfer RRP tools, reinforcing Government-led coordination of refugee protection and inclusion.

Information Management activities will be increasingly carried out by the national statistical authorities to lead on refugee-related data coordination, while contributing to contingency planning and emergency preparedness in collaboration with crisis management structures. These efforts aim to ensure a smooth transition from humanitarian coordination, so that refugee protection and inclusion are addressed in the broader national systems.

Partner Spotlight: Foundation for Freedom

Since 2010, RRP appealing partner Foundation for Freedom has been running a sports league and academy that brings together host communities and refugees. This initiative, entitled Etnoliga, is more than just a football competition - it is a space for interaction, inclusion, and equality. Teams are not organized by nationality, women and men play together, and each year more than 200 matches are held as part of Etnoliga.

In 2025, Foundation for Freedom - through the Etnoliga - participated in the flagship event of UNHCR's global partnership with UEFA, the Unity EURO Cup and facilitated the participation of a refugee team. ©Krzysztof Jarymowicz/ Foundation for Freedom

Partner Spotlight: Forum SAN & Caritas Rzeszów

Since September 2025, the coordination of subnational fora in Lublin, Rzeszów and Kraków has been co-chaired by national NGOs and local authorities, in line with UNHCR's ongoing localization efforts. In Lublin, the subnational forum is co-led by the Polish Red Cross together with local authorities. In Podkarpackie, a strategically important region due to its proximity to the border with Ukraine, Forum SAN and Caritas Rzeszów, together with Podkarpackie Voivodeship Office, assumed regional coordination responsibilities in September 2025.

Established in October 2024, Forum SAN brings together five national NGOs: the Folkowisko Foundation, the Podkarpackie Association for Active Families (PSAR), the Q Foundation, the Ukrainian House Foundation in Przemyśl and the Germanitas Foundation for International Cooperation. The Forum was created to strengthen civil society and build lasting social relationships. Its members operate on the principles of partnership, solidarity, and shared responsibility, jointly coordinating activities in the areas of inclusion and education, humanitarian assistance, partnership building, knowledge exchange, and advocacy. Forum SAN implements joint projects, develops good practices, and base its work on networking, resource sharing, and effective support for local communities.

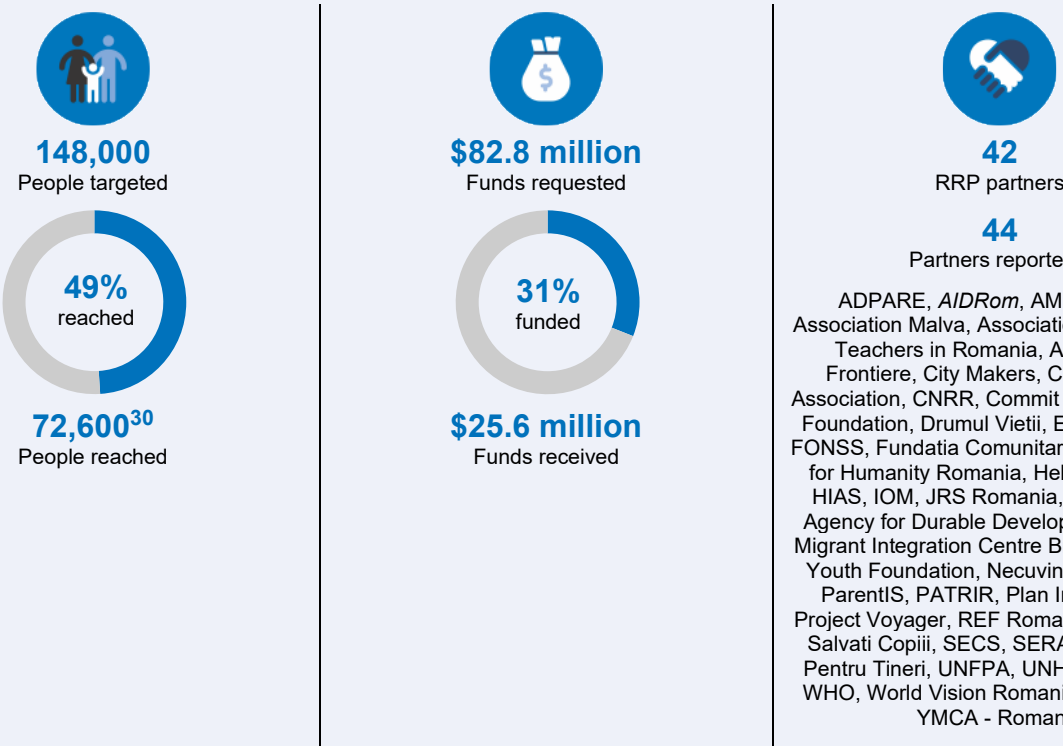
Through assuming regional coordination, Forum SAN has closely liaised with Caritas Rzeszów, the local diocese of Caritas Poland, the largest charitable organization in Poland. This collaboration has strengthened cooperation with local authorities and NGOs supporting refugees from Ukraine in the Podkapackie Voivodeship and serves as a strong example of effective partnership between national NGOs and local authorities.

Country-level Outcomes

	Outcome indicators	2024	2025	Difference	
SO1: Access to protection, legal status and rights	% of HHs who have registered for temporary protection or similar scheme	94%	87%	-7%*[29]	▼
SO2: Refugee inclusion in national services	% of working age (15 – 64) refugees who are employed (employment rate)	67%	75%	8%	▲
	% of refugees who are unemployed, unemployment rate (labour force)	8%	8%	0%	►
	Labour force participation rate (%)	74%	82%	8%	▲
	% of children (6-15) reported attending formal education in host countries (not official data; based on SEIS data)	85%	92%	7%	▲
	% of individuals with access to healthcare services when needed	86%	84%	-2%	▼
	% of individuals who received MHPSS services (of those that needed support and tried to access it)	76%	75%	-1%	▼
	% of individuals who accessed MHPSS and reported improved well being	88%	93%	5%	▲
SO3: Social cohesion with host communities	% of HHs reporting good relationship with host community	59%	54%	-5%	▼
SO4: Localization of the response	% of refugee coordination structures that are led, or co-led by local and national actors	67%	73%	6%	▲

[29] In 2025, some TP holders shifted to other types of resident permits in Poland, therefore the number of TP holders dropped.

ROMANIA



Progress against the strategic objectives

In 2025, RRP partners in Romania continued to support refugees from Ukraine in a context of protracted displacement and drastically constrained resources. Despite these challenges, partners reached some 73,000 people out of 148,000 targeted, prioritizing protection, inclusion in national systems, and pathways toward self-reliance, while supporting Romania's transition toward a more nationally led response.

Protection remained a central focus, particularly amid uncertainty regarding future legal pathways. Over 40,000 individuals were reached with protection services against a target of 53,000. This included 11,000 individuals supported through individual legal counselling and assistance, 20,000 refugees receiving information on sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) prevention and response and 18,000 people reached through Gender-Based Violence (GBV) awareness-raising activities. These interventions strengthened access to rights, risk mitigation, and referral to specialized support for women, children, and persons with specific needs.

Inclusion in national systems advanced following the implementation of Emergency Ordinance No. 96/2024,[32] which enabled refugees to access social protection on an equal footing with Romanian citizens. RRP partners supported 15,000 refugees through Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion (LEI)-related interventions, including 12,000 individuals assisted to navigate national social protection schemes. Economic inclusion efforts complemented this work, with 51 per cent of working-age refugees employed by the end of the year. Partners provided 5,000 refugees with employment and skills-building support and assisted around 500 individuals through entrepreneurship and financial inclusion initiatives.

In health, partners facilitated access to essential services through approximately 97,000 health consultations, including registration, referrals, and interpretation. 13,000 individuals were reached with Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) information and services, prioritizing those with acute needs.

Education interventions focused on enrolment support, Romanian language learning, and non-formal education. While enrolment increased, only 48 per cent of refugee children aged 4 to 18 years, were reported as regularly

[30] The number of individuals reached is an estimate based on the highest number of individuals reached per activity, per sector and/or per region, to avoid double-counting.
[31] Includes 2 non-appealing partners, marked in italics: AIDRom and Estuar.
[32] Emergency Ordinance No. 96/2024 "regarding the provision of humanitarian support and assistance by the Romanian state to foreign citizens or stateless persons in special situations, coming from the area of the armed conflict in Ukraine", 28 June 2024, see: https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocument/284711.

attending formal education, highlighting persistent barriers, particularly for older children.

Efforts to strengthen social cohesion and localization continued. Partners built national capacity through training of 2,400 service providers and implemented community-based initiatives, including five “Together in the Park” events. These gatherings, involving on average eight RRP partners, brought refugees and host communities together through culture, arts, and dialogue, reaching peak participation of over 1,000 people. Localization efforts focused on strengthening local coordination networks, including Refugee Inclusion Working Groups led by county Prefects, and supporting the development of local inclusion strategies at municipal level. As a result, 76 per cent of coordination structures are led or co-led by national and local actors. A donor engagement event supported advocacy for predictable funding as the RRP entered its mid-cycle phase.

Gaps and consequences of underfunding

Despite these achievements, significant underfunding constrained the response in 2025. With the Romania RRP funded at only 31% per cent of requirements, partners were forced to prioritize life-saving interventions, resulting in reduced coverage, suspended activities, and the closure of key services, even as needs remained high.

Funding gaps particularly affected protection and GBV services. Although nearly 47,000 people were reached with protection interventions, unmet needs remained significant, especially for specialized legal assistance, child protection, and survivor-centred GBV services. Community and service centres in Iasi, Galați, Rădăuți, Cluj-Napoca, Brașov, and Bucharest were closed or significantly scaled back. The RomExpo Community Centre remained among the few active, continuing to host NGOs, UN agencies, and public institutions under one roof to provide integrated support. These centres had provided critical access points for the most vulnerable, including survivors of violence and individuals in need of emergency shelter, an area where capacity became increasingly limited.

Reduced funding also affected the partners’ efforts to foster social cohesion. As services and community-based activities declined, the quality of relationships between refugees and host communities may have been affected. SEIS data from 2025 show a moderate decrease in the proportion of refugee households reporting good relations with host communities, signalling increased pressure and risks of tension in refugee-hosting areas.

Education and socio-economic inclusion were similarly impacted. Reduced funding for non-formal education and language learning contributed to declining attendance, with only 48 per cent of children aged 4 to 18 years, reported as attending formal education consistently. Compared to over 11,000 people reached with language classes in 2024, only around 3,400 benefited in 2025. While 52 per cent of working-age refugees were employed, as per the SEIS survey, livelihoods programmes reached only 5,000 people, with 500 supported in entrepreneurship. Although 12,000 individuals were supported in accessing social protection systems, gaps in outreach and local administrative capacity persisted.

In health and MHPSS, partners facilitated approximately 96,700 health consultations, but only 13,000 individuals received MHPSS support against a target of 70,000 due to lack of funding. Reduced basic needs assistance, with the sector receiving only 24% of the requested funding, contributed to negative coping mechanisms, including reduced food consumption and cuts to essential health expenditures.

Mid-cycle, the Romania RRP saw the addition of two national NGOs as appealing partners, increasing national engagement. While this demonstrated growing local capacity, it also highlighted the urgent need for resource mobilization, a core function of the RRP, to ensure that national actors could sustain their contributions in an underfunded environment.

Without predictable funding, these gaps risk eroding inclusion gains, weakening social cohesion, and placing additional strain on national and local systems.

Advocacy messages

- Sustained and predictable funding for the Romania RRP is essential to maintain protection, inclusion, and social cohesion as displacement from Ukraine becomes protracted.
- Romania’s Emergency Ordinance No. 96/2024 remains a major achievement, and continued investment is needed to raise awareness, strengthen implementation, and ensure refugees can effectively access national social protection systems.
- Clear legal pathways to continue residing in Romania beyond temporary protection are urgently required, enabling refugees to plan for the future, integrate sustainably, and contribute to Romanian society.
- Sustained support for social cohesion is needed, as relations between refugees and host communities show

signs of strain and require continued investment in inclusive, community-based approaches that benefit both populations.

- Access to emergency shelter remains critical for the most vulnerable refugees, particularly in light of the closure of community and service centres that had provided essential protection and accommodation support.

Coordination transition

In Romania, the transition phase will focus on strengthening linkages between the Refugee Coordination Model and the government-led coordination structures. This includes closer collaboration through joint working groups, such as on education, to reinforce government ownership and leadership of the national and local coordination systems. Efforts will continue to enhance the role of national NGOs in leading sectoral working groups, promoting a more inclusive and locally-owned coordination framework. Where appropriate, the scope of working groups will broaden to address the needs of all vulnerable groups, ensuring that no one is left behind.

At the sub-national level, the transition will prioritize the consolidation of local coordination mechanisms led by county prefects, while supporting municipalities in coordinating protection and integration responses for refugees. This includes technical assistance for the development of municipal policies on inclusion, protection, and social cohesion, ensuring the sustainability of support structures beyond the RRP period. Through these measures, coordination in Romania will evolve towards a model increasingly led and owned by national and local authorities, with continued support and accompaniment from RRP partners to maintain coherence and inclusiveness across levels.

Partner Spotlight: Necuvinte Association creating safe space for women and girls

Since the start of the full-scale war, RRP partner Necuvinte has provided critical support to Ukrainian refugees in Romania through its “Safe Space for Women and Girls” launched in 2023 at the Edmond Nicolau Refugee Centre in Bucharest. Over the past two years, Necuvinte supported more than 6,770 direct and nearly 79,800 indirect beneficiaries through Sexual and Gender-Based Violence risk assessments, protection services, psychological counselling, social assistance, language courses, community activities, dignity kits, medical counselling and referrals.

The centre became a vital space for resilience and healing, particularly for women affected by gender-based violence. However, due to severe funding reductions within the sector, the physical centre had to close in June 2025. On the refugee response, Necuvinte now functions exclusively through voluntary engagement, prioritizing assistance to victims of gender-based violence. Current support also focuses on psychological counselling, referrals for accommodation and translation services-especially in interactions with landlords related to rental agreements or other urgent situations.

Despite reduced capacity, Necuvinte continues to respond where needs are most acute, ensuring life-saving support for the most vulnerable refugees. © Ionela Plesan/Necuvinte

Country-level Outcomes

	Outcome indicators	2024	2025	Difference	
SO1: Access to protection, legal status and rights	% of HHs who have registered for temporary protection or similar scheme	99%	97%	-2%	▼
SO2: Refugee inclusion in national services	% of working age (15 – 64) refugees who are employed (employment rate)	41%	52%	11%	▲
	% of refugees who are unemployed, unemployment rate (labour force)	20%	16%	-4%	▼
	Labor force participation rate (%)	53%	63%	10%	▲
	% of children (6-15) reported attending formal education in host countries (not official data; based on SEIS data)	52%	52%	0%	▶
	% of individuals with access to healthcare services when needed	75%	72%	-3%	▼
	% of individuals who received MHPSS services (of those that needed support and tried to access it)	57%	50%	-7%	▼
	% of individuals who accessed MHPSS and reported improved well being	85%	90%	5%	▲
SO3: Social cohesion with host communities	% of HHs reporting good relationship with host community	77%	64%	-13%	▼
SO4: Localization of the response	% of refugee coordination structures that are led, or co-led by local and national actors	78%	76%	-2%	▼

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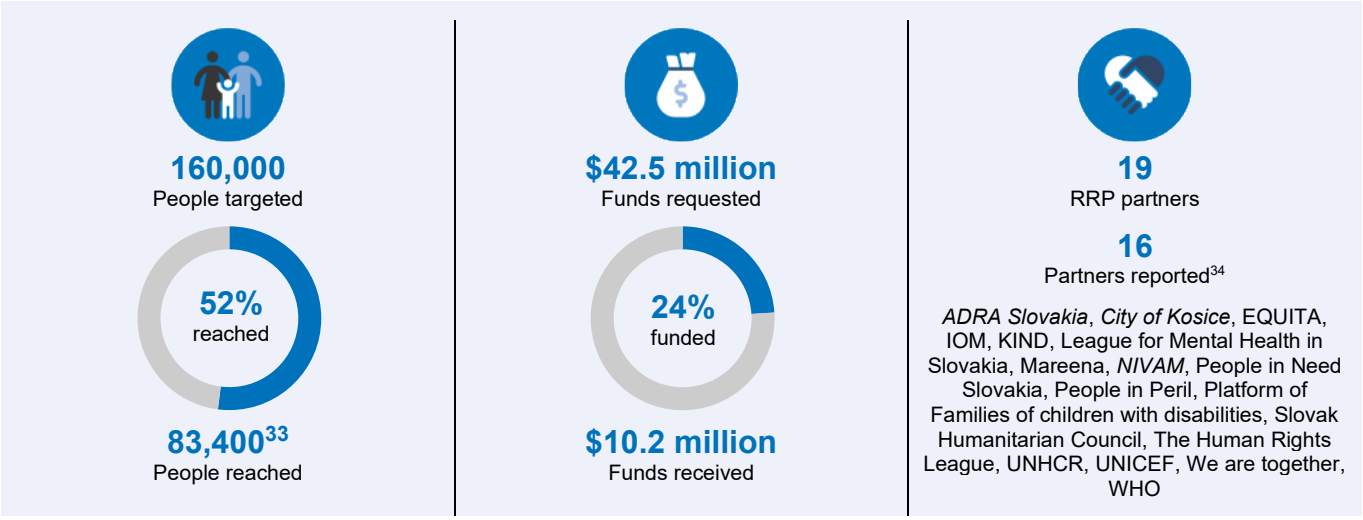

Progress against the strategic objectives

In 2025, Slovakia sustained a supportive protection environment for refugees while advancing policy and coordination frameworks aligned with EU developments. The Government, with UNHCR and 18 other partners, launched the 2025–26 Refugee Response Plan signaling continued commitment to protection, access to essential services, and inclusion.

In February 2025, the Government extended Slovakia's temporary protection (TP) status until 4 March 2026, following a decision of the Council of the European Union, and advanced important legislative amendments aimed at aligning national legislation with the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum. At the same time, the draft Act on International Protection, intended to replace the current Act on Asylum, was submitted for inter-ministerial public consultation, as well as amendments to the Act on Residence of Foreigners, further clarifying the legal framework for the transition from Temporary Protection to other forms of residence.

RRP partners supported the Government in its efforts to enhance refugee protection and inclusion in the country. Protection systems were strengthened through evidence-based planning, capacity building, and targeted services. Efforts included monitoring of new arrivals, strengthening of national support mechanisms, as well as strengthening local capacities. Inter-agency partners also continued to complement the government-led cash programmes with targeted cash assistance, including cash for protection. In 2025, some 1,000 individuals received cash assistance.

RRP partners continued to identify specific needs, including persons with disabilities, single women, children at risk, and LGBTIQ+ persons and older persons, for referrals to specialized services. In 2025, some 61,500 people were reached with various protection services.

Socio-economic inclusion of refugees was strengthened through a range of activities implemented by RRP partners and municipal service hubs, including skills development, job search support, language classes, CV writing assistance, childcare, help in overcoming bureaucratic barriers. The Slovakia Refugee Employment Platform, a dedicated web portal for private sector industries throughout the country, provided a unique national model to connect refugees to jobs and provide multilingual guidance on rights and procedures, amplified through major Profesia Days job fairs in various locations in the country, where partners participated. Strong support from the Government and municipalities, as well as the key role of community-based and refugee-led organizations, were particularly important in realizing inclusion activities. Various livelihoods and economic inclusion initiatives benefited a total of 233,000 individuals.

The Point of Safety Network spanning seven cities (Bratislava, Košice, Michalovce, Nitra, Prešov, Trnava, and Žilina) successfully transitioned from the emergency Blue Dots model into a sustainable, municipality-led model. Now operating as the Point of Safety network, it is led by seven municipalities under the coordination of the Union of Cities of Slovakia, reinforcing local ownership and ensuring long-term sustainability.

[33] The number of individuals reached is an estimate based on the highest number of individuals reached per activity, per sector and/or per region, to avoid double-counting.
[34] Includes 3 non-appealing partners, marked in italics: ADRA Slovakia, City of Kosice and NIVAM.

Social cohesion among the refugee and host communities was promoted through various community and awareness-raising activities in which 86,800 individuals participated, facilitating social interaction, cultural exchange, increased understanding of refugee rights, and contributing overall towards an environment free of xenophobia and exclusion of refugees and other minority groups. Furthermore, the involvement of local actors and refugee-led organizations was key at ensuring a bottom-up approach to such efforts among the communities across the country.

TP holders in Slovakia have access to public healthcare services. RRP partners worked to increase awareness of services available to TP holders, and to provide support in accessing these. In 2025, close to 1,000 refugees were provided health consultations and 2,300 individuals participated in Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services and activities.

In the first half of 2025, RRP partners continued to ensure access to quality Gender-Based Violence (GBV) information and services while ensuring high-quality, survivor-centred care. In January and February 2025, a GBV Risk Assessment was conducted to ensure tailored GBV programming. However, due to the budget cuts, the proposed measures could not be implemented.

To strengthen prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, RRP partners continued to focus on prevention and access to information. RRP partners also worked with authorities and relevant practitioners through capacity-building and information sessions on how to identify and address trafficking in persons, particularly focusing on the trafficking of children, due to the number of underage Ukrainian refugee students in Slovak universities and middle schools, who are at a high protection risk.

Inter-agency advocacy helped secure compulsory education for all refugee children from September 2025, accompanied by a national information campaign that reached 51,000+ views on UNHCR Slovakia Telegram Channel. In parallel, sustained advocacy by UNHCR and partners contributed to the Ministry of Education strengthening support measures for refugee children, including adaptation classes and expanded Slovak language support, while recognition procedures for Ukrainian teachers' qualifications were also simplified.

Gaps and consequences of underfunding

Despite important progress, severe funding constraints in 2025 required substantial prioritization of resources, resulting in the reduction or discontinuation of several critical components of the refugee response in Slovakia. Reduced funding for community-based protection and small grants to refugee-led organizations weakened community outreach and engagement efforts across the country. Consequently, fewer refugees were able to benefit from essential services, including urgently needed housing support, mental health and psychosocial assistance, and help for survivors of gender-based violence.

Temporary Protection application backlogs remained a significant challenge which continued to further hinder access to accommodation, as TP holders are only eligible for state-supported accommodation if they hold valid TP status in Slovakia. In addition, the accommodation subsidy was reduced from 120 to 60 days in 2025, further limiting the availability of state-subsidized housing and capacity of partners to support individuals in securing accommodation. In parallel, due to reduced funding, partners were required to withdraw from border locations and other sites where they had been providing on-arrival support and referrals to essential services, while simultaneously constraining capacity for counselling services, including those delivered through the helpline, thereby narrowing early protection and assistance coverage.

Despite positive developments in compulsory education for children holding Temporary Protection, capacity constraints remain, particularly in supporting families with school enrolment. As a result, practical access to education continues to pose challenges for some refugee children.

Advocacy messages

- Advocacy for strengthened support measures is required to sustain refugee inclusion in national education systems, including expanded Slovak language support, MHPSS, preparatory programmes, teacher capacity-building, and targeted support for vulnerable learners, particularly adolescents and children with special educational needs or disabilities.
- Based on the SEIS 2025 report, the three main priority needs of Ukrainian refugees were employment (20%), health services (18%) and accommodation (11%). Language courses (7%) and access to medicines (6%) were also reported as priority needs, reflecting the continued importance of economic inclusion and access to essential services.

Coordination transition

In 2026, Slovakia will continue to maintain a strong and government-supported coordination architecture under the RRP for the Ukraine Situation. The Refugee Coordination Forum, co-chaired by the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior, will continue to convene bi-monthly national-level meetings in Bratislava and maintain field-level coordination in Eastern Slovakia. To reflect the evolving situation and ensure a more streamlined coordination structure, several Working Groups (WG) were consolidated as of 1 September 2025, resulting in three national WGs (Protection & Inclusion; Health & MHPSS; Education), supported by a Sub-Working Group on Trafficking in Persons and a PSEA Task Force.

As part of this restructuring, the Child Protection WG, Cash WG, and Information Management WG, which previously operated as standalone groups, have been integrated under the Protection & Inclusion WG, with a possibility to organize ad hoc meetings of respective integrated WG if/when needed. The RCF and WG meetings will continue in a light and flexible format, enabling ongoing dialogue, information exchange, and identification of gaps and priorities across sectors.

Partner Spotlight: Slovak Humanitarian Council

Since the beginning of the crisis in Ukraine, RRP partner Slovak Humanitarian Council (SHC) has been a cornerstone of the refugee response in Slovakia, evolving from initial emergency support at border locations to longer-term integration assistance. From January to April 2025, SHC operated at full capacity across all border crossing points and contact points, supporting approximately 12,300 refugees and asylum-seekers with counselling and referral to specialized services, such as gender-based violence (GBV) and child-protection case management, psychosocial support, and assistance related to healthcare, education, and employment. However, in line with trends across the region, severe funding shortfalls required a significant scale-down of operations from mid-May 2025. Border activities were discontinued, and staffing levels were reduced at several locations.

Despite these constraints, SHC continued providing essential services to an additional 2,900 individuals in the second half of the year. Support remained available in key locations throughout Slovakia such as Nitra, Žilina, Michalovce and Humenné, while critical legal counselling continued in the Medveďov and Sečovce detention centres. Prioritizing urgent and complex cases referred by other service providers, SHC adapted its resources to stay accessible to those at heightened risk. SHC is also present in asylum facilities: the reception centre in Humenné, the facility for unaccompanied minors in Opatovská Nová Ves, and the facility for adult asylum seekers in Rohovce. One department of the SHC office covers integration activities for clients granted international protection throughout Slovakia. SHC is also active in international projects, such as 'Agri for Integration,' with five other international partners. Overall, SHC reached approximately 15,200 individuals in 2025, demonstrating sustained commitment to protecting rights and dignity of refugees despite significant operational reductions. As a key protection partner, SHC continues to play a central role in the refugee response in Slovakia. ©SHC/Peter Devínsky

Country-level Outcomes

	Outcome indicators	2024	2025	Difference
SO1: Access to protection, legal status and rights	% of HHs who have registered for temporary protection or similar scheme	92%	84%	-8% ▼
	% of working age (15 – 64) refugees who are employed (employment rate)	66%	62%	-4% ▼

SO2: Refugee inclusion in national services	% of refugees who are unemployed, unemployment rate (labour force)	7%	8%	1%	▲
	Labor force participation rate (%)	71%	68%	-3%	▼
	% of children (6 – 15) reported attending formal education in host countries (not official data; based on SEIS data)	86%	94%	8%	▲
	% of individuals with access to healthcare services when needed	81%	87%	6%	▲
	% of individuals who received MHPSS services (of those that needed support and tried to access it)	71%	51%	-20%	▼
	% of individuals who accessed MHPSS and reported improved well being	98%	79%	-19%	▼
SO3: Social cohesion with host communities	% of HHs reporting good relationship with host community	73%	74%	1%	▲
SO4: Localization of the response	% of refugee coordination structures that are led, or co-led by local and national actors	80%	67%	-13%	▼

Slovakia: Under the "United in Sport" project launched by UNHCR and LIV Golf and implemented by the Slovak Olympic and Sports Committee and People in Peril, a summer camp in Bratislava brings together refugee children from Ukraine and host community peers for gymnastics, sports, and creative activities that foster healing, inclusion, and lasting friendships. © UNHCR/Samo Soth