Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

April 2026

INTER-AGENCY NEWSLETTER

REFUGEE COORDINATION FORUM | ROMANIA

Supporting inclusion, resilience and durable solutions for refugees in Romania.

$48.6M

2026 RRP APPEAL

43
APPEALING PARTNERS

208,164
refugees with temporary protection and refugee status in Romania (as of end March 2026)

© UNHCR | On 23 April 2026, UNHCR and AIDRom Integris organized the "Patterns of the Soul" creative workshop in Timișoara, bringing together 13 participants from Armenian, Sudanese, Iranian, Syrian, Ukrainian, and Palestinian communities. Through T-shirt painting and artistic expression, participants explored personal experiences in a safe and inclusive space, fostering psychosocial well-being, social cohesion, and a stronger sense of belonging.

APPEAL BY SECTOR (USD)

Protection	$16.5M
Livelihoods & Socio Economic Inclusion	$16.2M
Basic Needs	$15.7M
Public Health & MHPSS	$10.1M
Education	$9.3M
Child Protection	$8.7M
Gender-based Violence	$6.3M

2026 RESPONSE SNAPSHOT (as of March 2026)

10%	Funding level
$5.0M	Total received funds* vs. 48.6M appeal
$43.6M	Funding gap of appeal
41	Reportig partners out of 43 appealling partners
32	Partners reporting no new funding received this year for their refugee related projects
4,977	People reached as of April 2026 vs. 144,000 target**

*Data reflects information reported by partners as of the end of Q1 2026.
**Targets reflect planned needs. However, due to funding shortfalls and related implementation constraints, most of these targets are not expected to be achieved.

KEY PRIORITIES

Protection
Ensuring access to safety, legal protection, rights, and essential services for refugees and vulnerable groups.

Inclusion & Integration
Supporting refugees' access to education, employment, healthcare, and social services to foster self-reliance and long-term inclusion.

Social Cohesion
Strengthening trust, solidarity, and meaningful connections between refugees and host communities across Romania.

Localization
Empowering local authorities, civil society, and refugee-led organizations to lead sustainable, community-based responses.

INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE

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Operational Context

Within the framework of the Refugee Response Plan (RRP), UN agencies and their NGO partners maintain active coordination with national and local authorities through the Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) and its sectoral working groups. These joint structures are fundamental to delivering a unified, efficient, and all-encompassing response to refugee needs throughout Romania.

Since 24 February 2022, over 5.1 million Ukrainians have fled to countries across Europe.

According to data published by the Romanian General Inspectorate for Immigration (GII) as of end March 2026, a total of 208,164 refugees were granted temporary protection and refugee status in Romania.

This status that entitles holders to access healthcare services, the education system, and employment opportunities.

The response continues to prioritize protection, inclusion, and access to essential services for refugees, while promoting durable solutions, social cohesion, and greater national and local ownership of the response.

Funding Snapshot – Q1 2026

As of the end of Q1 2026, RRP partners in Romania reported USD 5 million in funding received against a revised appeal of USD 48.6 million, leaving major funding gaps across all sectors.
Protection and Livelihoods remain the sectors with the largest financial requirements, each facing funding gaps exceeding USD 10 million, while Basic Needs, Education, Health & Nutrition, Child Protection, and GBV activities also continue to face significant shortfalls.
Despite limited new funding, 14 partners reported ongoing activities supported through available, carried-over, or complementary resources, while 23 partners reported limited or no operational activities due to the absence of dedicated funding.

PARTNERS BY OPERATIONAL STATUS

14 partners
Activities ongoing with current or carried-over funding

6 partners
Activities implemented through other RRP partners

10 partners
No dedicated funding/ Limited activities through voluntary efforts or other fundings sources

13 partners
No funding/ No activities

ACHIEVEMENTS BY SECTOR - APRIL 2026

SECTOR	PEOPLE REACHED	TARGET	FUNDING LEVEL
Protection	4,258	35,300	23%
Child Protection	496	5,000	3%
Gender-based Violence	3,345	28,000	9%
Education	1,005	3,300	0.1%
Basic Needs	568	23,400	8%
Public Health & MHPSS	3,009	23,700	11%
Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	799	13,300	3%

Spotlight story - RRP partner

CNRR

Romanian National Council for Refugees

In the past year, CNRR reached over 7,000 displaced and stateless people across Romania, connecting them with healthcare, education, employment and social services.

7,000+
PEOPLE REACHED
Displaced and stateless people across Romania

157
FAMILY REUNIFICATION CASES SUPPORTED
65 family members arrived: 40 children and 25 adults

1,235
PEOPLE SUPPORTED IN ACCESSING HEALTHCARE
Through counseling and accompaniment

56
AVERAGE PARTICIPANTS PER SESSION
In the free online citizenship course

REUNITING FAMILIES ACROSS BORDERS

Among the many needs people arrive with, reuniting with family is often the most pressing and the hardest to achieve. The process unfolds over months, across borders, through visa complications and conflict-disrupted routes. In 2025, CNRR supported 157 reunification cases and documented the arrival of 65 family members — 40 children and 25 adults — from Sudan, Syria, Afghanistan, Cameroon and Guinea.

A MOTHER'S JOURNEY

One such case involved a Cameroonian mother trying to bring her five children to Romania after their father's death.

The children faced questions about transit visas, an airline that refused and later cancelled tickets, and a chain of communications with relevant institutions — all while alone, making every delay a welfare concern.

CNRR worked through each obstacle alongside the mother until the children arrived safely, then supported the family with social benefits, schooling and steps toward rebuilding the mother's professional life.

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

Access to healthcare is another area where CNRR intervenes, especially for temporary protection holders. In 2025, they supported 1,235 people in navigating the medical system through counseling and accompanying people to appointments. Many cases were urgent: temporary protection holders frequently appeared uninsured in the system, and medical staff were often unfamiliar with their rights.

42
ONCOLOGY PATIENTS
supported through interpretation and active advocacy to receive the care were entitled to.

PROMOTING RIGHTS.
PROTECTING PEOPLE.
BUILDING FUTURES.

Learn more CNRR

A PATHWAY TO CITIZENSHIP

Each year, CNRR also runs a free online citizenship course built entirely on pro-bono collaboration. In 2025, PhD candidates, a Romanian language teacher and former staff covered history, geography, constitution and culture in preparation for the citizenship exam.

An average of 56 people joined each session.

> "The teachers explained things clearly and were very patient. The environment was friendly and I felt encouraged to participate."
> - Rejin, course participant

> One of the best ways to familiarize yourself with the material, especially if you like learning within a group.
> - Course participant

PROTECTION

Supporting Refugees Through Information, Access, and Advocacy

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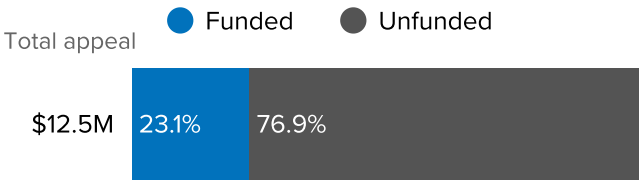
24
PARTNERS appealing

35,200
PEOPLE TARGETED in 2026

$12.5M
FINANCIAL REQUEST in 2026



WORKING GROUP CO-CHAIRS

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

Consiliul Național Român pentru Refugiați

KEY PARTNERS

JRS Jesuit Refugee Service | Guvernul României – Agenția Națională pentru Egalitatea de Șanse între Femei și Bărbați | Terre des hommes – Helping children worldwide. | Salvați Copiii – Save the Children Romania | unicef for every child | Crucea Roșie Română | Novapolis – Centrul de Analiză și Inițiative pentru Dezvoltare | Migrant Integration Center Brasov – Empowering Inclusion

Full list of sectoral appealing partners: ADPARE | City Makers | East European Institute for Reproductive Health (EEIRH) | EDNAE | FONSS | IOM | JRS Romania | Malva | Metropolitan Agency for Durable Development Brasov | Migrant Integration Centre Brasov | Necuvinte | Novapolis | PATRIR | Plan International | RomaJust | Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR) | Save the Children Romania | Dr.Max Foundation | Sibiu Community Foundation | Terre des Hommes | Tineri Pentru Tineri | UNHCR | UNICEF | World Vision Romania

Preparing Protection Systems for the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum

Romania's preparations for the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum continued to accelerate throughout April, with national authorities, humanitarian organisations and legal experts working together to strengthen protection safeguards and operational readiness.

On 2 April, UNHCR, IOM and UNICEF convened a senior-level working meeting with the General Inspectorate of the Romanian Border Police to discuss implementation of the Pact and its implications for people seeking protection. Particular attention was given to strengthening mechanisms for identifying and referring individuals in need of international protection, as well as enhancing safeguards for vulnerable groups.

UNHCR reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Romanian authorities through technical expertise and tailored capacity-strengthening initiatives for Border Police officials who will operate within the future integrated screening centres. Discussions highlighted the importance of maintaining close interinstitutional cooperation to ensure that strengthened border management measures are implemented alongside robust protection safeguards.

This dialogue continued on 15 April during the first official meeting of the Tripartite Working Group (TWG) in 2026, bringing together the General Inspectorate of Border Police (GIBP), UNHCR and CNRR under the framework of their existing Cooperation Agreement. Discussions focused on the implementation of the Pact and the future role of non-governmental organisations within screening centres, reinforcing the value of coordinated approaches to international protection.

Further efforts to strengthen preparedness took place between 22 and 24 April, when UNHCR participated in a debate organised by its implementing partner, the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR), under an AMIF-funded project. The event brought together nearly 40 participants, including judges, lawyers, legal counsellors and representatives from the General Inspectorate for Immigration and the General Inspectorate for Border Police. Through dedicated sessions on UNHCR's mandate, perspectives on the Pact and refugee status determination criteria

PROTECTION

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Community Protection Begins with Information, Inclusion and Participation

Protection extends beyond legal frameworks and institutional systems. It also means ensuring that people have access to information, social connections and opportunities to participate in community life.

On 21 April, UNHCR organised an information session at the RomExpo Community Centre focused on access to social assistance, with particular attention given to Romania's Minimum Inclusive Income (VMI) programme. The session brought together ten participants from diverse age groups, including students, working-age adults and older persons, many of whom were seeking clarification on eligibility criteria, application procedures and available support options.

Participants openly shared experiences and challenges, creating a peer-learning environment that helped address misconceptions and increase understanding of available social assistance mechanisms. Discussions also highlighted specific barriers faced by students residing in dormitories, underlining the importance of tailored information and guidance for different groups within the refugee community.

Throughout April, UNHCR also supported a range of community-based protection activities in Bucharest, Timișoara and Constanța, reaching at least 41 participants, including refugee women, children, youth and older persons. Creative workshops such as Colours of Hope (implemented in partnership with AIDRom Integris), Mosaic workshops for children, pre-Easter egg decorating activities and Petrykivka painting sessions provided safe spaces for social interaction, creative expression and community dialogue.

Women participated in dedicated empowerment sessions through the Women's Club, while movement and relaxation activities promoted wellbeing and emotional resilience. At the same time, the weekly Romanian Speaking Club for Adults, facilitated through a volunteer initiative involving UNHCR colleagues, continued to support language learning and social inclusion.

Together, these activities helped reduce isolation, strengthen social connections, improve self-confidence and create opportunities for refugees and host community members to engage with one another in meaningful ways.

Helping Refugees Access Rights, Services and Opportunities

Access to information, public services and employment opportunities remains central to helping displaced people rebuild their lives and achieve greater independence.

Throughout the month, CNRR provided direct assistance to 453 forcibly displaced and stateless persons (FDSPs), including 384 Temporary Protection holders, 48 beneficiaries of international protection and two asylum seekers. Through counselling and case management, refugees received guidance on administrative procedures, legal pathways and access to essential services.

Among those supported were 106 Ukrainian refugees who received information on obtaining or updating Temporary Protection permits, as well as practical guidance on their rights and obligations in Romania. CNRR also facilitated 25 accompaniments for 11 individuals seeking access to healthcare and socio-economic services, helping to overcome barriers that often prevent vulnerable people from receiving the support they need.

Employment and economic inclusion also remained important priorities. On 28 April, CNRR supported the participation of refugees at a job fair organised by Ateliere Fără Frontiere, while providing CV drafting assistance and communication support to 15 participants engaging with potential employers. Such initiatives help bridge the gap between refugees and the labour market while promoting greater self-reliance and social inclusion.

Family unity remained another important area of intervention. During the reporting period, CNRR managed 13 complex family reunification and reunion cases involving 20 family members. Of these, 15 individuals expressed their intention to seek asylum upon arrival in Romania, highlighting the continued importance of legal pathways that allow families to reunite in safety.

Looking Ahead: The Search for Durable Solutions Continues

While protection services remain available, many refugees continue to face challenges in securing longer-term stability. Interest in pathways beyond Temporary Protection is growing, particularly among those seeking Romanian citizenship or more secure residence options. At the same time, refugees pursuing onward movement within the EU increasingly report procedural difficulties related to family reunification and access to protection.

Healthcare remains a significant area of need, requiring ongoing interpretation, accompaniment and case support. Delays in family reunification procedures, particularly in cases involving Pakistan, Afghanistan and Syria, continue to separate families for prolonged periods, while individuals returned to Romania under the Dublin procedure often face difficulties accessing accommodation and integration support.

Addressing these challenges will require continued cooperation between authorities, humanitarian organisations and civil society actors to expand access to durable solutions and strengthen refugees' prospects for long-term inclusion and stability.

CHILD PROTECTION

Protecting and Supporting Ukrainian Refugee Children in Romania

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9
PARTNERS appealing

5,000
PEOPLE TARGETED in 2026

$4.2M
FINANCIAL REQUEST in 2026

Total appeal

Funded | Unfunded

$4.2M — 96.7%

WORKING GROUP CO-CHAIRS

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

unicef for every child

MINISTERUL MUNCII, FAMILIEI, TINERETULUI ȘI SOLIDARITĂȚII SOCIALE
Autoritatea Națională pentru Protecția Drepturilor Copilului și Adopție

KEY PARTNERS

JRS · Salvați Copiii Save the Children Romania · World Vision · Terre des hommes Helping children worldwide. · Crucea Roșie Română · Novapolis

Full list of sectoral appealing partners: City Makers | Sibiu Community Foundation | Necuvinte | Plan International | Save the Children Romania | Terre des Hommes | UNHCR | UNICEF | World Vision Romania

Strengthening Child Protection Systems Under the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum

As Romania prepares for the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, child protection actors are working closely with national authorities to ensure that the rights and best interests of children remain central to new procedures and systems.

On 2 April, UNICEF, UNHCR and IOM convened a joint meeting with the Romanian Border Police to discuss the implementation of the Pact and its implications for refugee and migrant children. The exchange focused on strengthening operational coordination, clarifying future procedures and responsibilities, and identifying practical measures to support implementation.

Beyond operational planning, the meeting provided an important opportunity to anticipate challenges, align approaches and explore areas where technical support and collaboration could strengthen protection-sensitive responses. As new migration and asylum procedures take shape, continued coordination between government institutions and humanitarian actors will be essential to safeguarding children's rights and ensuring that vulnerable children receive appropriate support from the earliest stages of contact with authorities.

Protecting Children Through Family Support and Case Management

Effective child protection requires both preventive support for families and tailored interventions for children facing heightened vulnerabilities.

Throughout April, Save the Children continued to provide child protection services in Bucharest, Baia Mare, Galați and Suceava, helping vulnerable children and their caregivers access information, support and specialised assistance.

A total of 147 children benefited from child protection interventions during the month. Families received information and counselling on children's rights and available benefits, helping them better understand and access services designed to support children's wellbeing and development.

For children facing more complex challenges, case management services provided individualised intervention plans and social support tailored to their specific needs. At the same time, parenting sessions, including activities based on the Safe Families methodology, helped strengthen positive parenting practices and prevent child abuse and neglect.

CHILD PROTECTION

By combining family-focused prevention with targeted support for vulnerable children, these interventions continue to strengthen protective environments and promote safer, more supportive conditions for children affected by displacement.

Creativity, Connection and Wellbeing at the RomExpo Community Centre

For children affected by displacement, opportunities to play, create and connect with others can be an important source of stability, confidence and emotional wellbeing.

Throughout April, the RomExpo Community Centre continued to provide welcoming spaces where children and families could come together through creative and community-based activities.

On 16 April, UNHCR organised a Jewellery-Making Workshop that brought together children and adults in a warm and inclusive environment. The activity attracted 18 participants, with several family members joining throughout the session. While creating handmade jewellery, participants also engaged in informal Romanian language practice, helping to strengthen communication skills while fostering social interaction and community participation.

Children and families participate in a jewellery-making workshop at the RomExpo Community Centre, creating handmade accessories while building communication skills, confidence and social connections in a welcoming community environment.

A week later, on 23 April, children returned to the Centre for a creative workshop entitled "Mosaic". The activity gathered 12 children and encouraged artistic expression, collaboration and positive interaction in a safe and supportive setting. As children worked on their creations, parents had the opportunity to exchange experiences, share information and build connections with one another.

Together, these activities demonstrated how arts-based engagement can support children's emotional wellbeing, strengthen community ties and create opportunities for meaningful interaction between refugee and host community members

Looking Ahead: Sustaining Safe Spaces and Child-Centred Support

As refugee families continue to navigate displacement and integration challenges, maintaining access to safe spaces, family support services and specialised child protection interventions remains essential.

Creative and community-based activities continue to provide valuable opportunities for children to build confidence, develop social connections and strengthen their emotional wellbeing. At the same time, ongoing coordination between humanitarian organisations and government institutions will remain critical to ensuring that child protection considerations are fully integrated into evolving migration and asylum procedures.

Continued investment in prevention, case management and child-friendly services will help ensure that refugee and migrant children can grow, learn and thrive in safe and supportive environments.

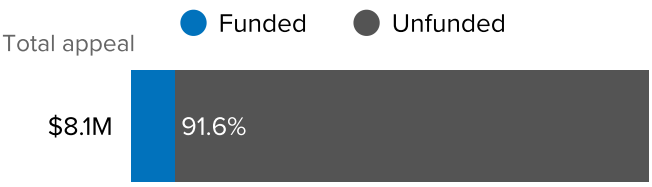
BASIC NEEDS

Supporting Refugees through Integrated Services, Emergency Aid, and Local Coordination

13
PARTNERS appealing

23,400
PEOPLE TARGETED in 2026

$8.1M
FINANCIAL REQUEST in 2026



WORKING GROUP CO-CHAIRS

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

Salvați Copiii Save the Children Romania

CRUCEA ROȘIE ROMÂNĂ

KEY PARTNERS

JRS JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE

EDNAE

fundația comunitară Sibiu

AIDROM ASOCIATIA ECUMENICA A BISERICILOR DIN ROMANIA

Full list of sectoral appealing partners: ADPARE | AIDRom | ASSOC | EDNAE | FONSS | Habitat for Humanity | IOM | JRS Romania | Novapolis | RomaJust | SERA | UNHCR

Essential Assistance Continues to Support Refugees Across Romania

As humanitarian assistance evolves, access to basic household items remains an important source of support for vulnerable refugee families seeking stability and dignity.

Throughout April, UNHCR continued to work alongside the General Directorate of Social Assistance of Bucharest Municipality (DGASMB), Help Ukrainians Organization and AIDROM to provide essential non-food items (NFIs) to forcibly displaced people across Romania. Together, the partners supported 64 individuals in Bucharest, Galați and Timiș Counties through the distribution of core items such as mattresses and undergarments.

While often delivered quietly and behind the scenes, these interventions play a vital role in helping vulnerable individuals meet their daily needs and maintain dignified living conditions. They also provide an important safety net for newly arrived refugees and those facing financial hardship.
By the end of April 2026, UNHCR had distributed more than 172,476 core relief items (CRIs) to approximately 47,189 Ukrainian refugees, including vulnerable third-country nationals and members of host communities across Romania, reflecting the sustained commitment of humanitarian partners to supporting those most in need.

Strengthening Coordination to Address Housing and Financial Inclusion Challenges

As emergency assistance programmes evolve, coordinated action remains essential to helping refugees access sustainable solutions and navigate an increasingly complex support landscape.

On 30 April, partners gathered for the Basic Needs and Cash Working Group under the Inter-Agency framework to discuss emerging challenges and identify opportunities for coordinated action. The meeting highlighted key developments in the accommodation sector, including updates on the Romanian Red Cross multipurpose cash assistance pilot and the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Romania initiative aimed at improving access to safe housing.

Participants emphasised that strong inter-agency collaboration continues to be critical in supporting highly vulnerable refugee families and identifying both immediate and longer-term solutions. Particular attention was given to financial inclusion, an area where many refugees continue to face barriers that limit their ability to secure housing, access financial services and achieve greater self-reliance.

BASIC NEEDS

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The discussions reinforced the importance of maintaining coordinated approaches that bring together humanitarian actors, public institutions and community organisations to address complex and interconnected needs.

Providing Clarity Amid Growing Housing Uncertainty

Access to reliable information can be as important as material assistance when families are faced with difficult decisions about their future.

The absence of the legislative framework that had previously supported accommodation centres until December 2025 has continued to generate uncertainty for refugees residing in collective accommodation facilities. As concerns over potential evictions increased, many families faced questions about their rights, available options and the future of accommodation support in Romania.

To help address these information gaps, UNHCR updated and expanded accommodation-related guidance available through the UNHCR Help Page for people from Ukraine. The initiative aimed to provide clear, accessible and up-to-date information on the evolving accommodation landscape, enabling refugees to better understand the legal context and make informed decisions about their housing arrangements.

By strengthening access to reliable information, the initiative contributes to reducing protection risks and helping refugees navigate an increasingly challenging housing environment with greater confidence.

SMART UA: Supporting Refugees on the Path to Secure Housing

Safe housing is about more than having a roof over one's head—it also requires knowledge, financial literacy and access to reliable information.

Recognising these challenges, JRS Romania continues to implement the SMART UA – Scaling the Successful Social Inclusion and Integration of Ukrainian Refugees in Hungary, Romania and Slovakia through an Innovative Multi-Stakeholder Cooperation project. The initiative brings together 11 partner organisations across Hungary, Romania and Slovakia with the objective of replicating successful approaches to refugee inclusion and integration.

As part of the project, refugees receive support through group and individual information sessions covering topics such as landlord and tenant rights and obligations, procedures for acquiring property in Romania, and access to banking and mortgage services.

By equipping refugees with practical knowledge and strengthening their understanding of the housing market, the project seeks to improve access to safe and sustainable accommodation while supporting longer-term integration.

The initiative also demonstrates the value of regional cooperation in addressing common challenges faced by refugee communities across Central and Eastern Europe.

Looking Ahead: Housing and Basic Needs Remain Key Concerns

Despite ongoing assistance and coordination efforts, significant challenges remain in ensuring that refugees can meet their basic needs and access safe accommodation.

In Bucharest, organisations providing basic needs assistance are increasingly narrowing eligibility criteria and concentrating support within the Bucharest–Ilfov area. As a result, refugees living elsewhere in the country often have limited or no access to similar assistance, increasing vulnerability in smaller cities and locations where service coverage is already limited.

Experiences gathered through the SMART UA project further highlight persistent challenges affecting refugees, including the shortage of affordable housing, limited temporary and long-term accommodation options for vulnerable individuals such as single parents, older persons and people with disabilities, as well as ongoing needs for legal guidance, financial literacy and language support.

Addressing these gaps will require continued cooperation between public authorities, civil society organisations and private sector actors to expand access to safe housing and strengthen the foundations for sustainable inclusion and self-reliance.

EDUCATION

Supporting the Inclusion of Refugee and Vulnerable Children Across Romania

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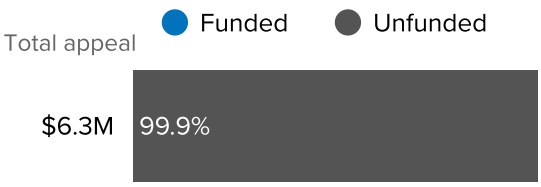
24
PARTNERS appealing

3,300
PEOPLE TARGETED in 2026

$6.3M
FINANCIAL REQUEST in 2026

Total appeal



WORKING GROUP CO-CHAIRS

unicef for every child

JRS JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE

KEY PARTNERS

MINISTERUL EDUCAȚIEI ȘI CERCETĂRII

Salvați Copiii Save the Children Romania

AIDROM Asociația Ecumenica a Bisericilor din România

HELP Ukrainians

Migrant Integration Center Brasov Empowering Inclusion

Full list of sectoral appealing partners: ADPARE | AIDRom | AMI | Association Malva | City Makers | Civic Radauti Association | EDNAE | Sibiu Community Foundation | Help Ukrainians | IOM | JRS Romania | National Youth Foundation | Novapolis | PATRIR | Plan International | REF Romania | RomaJust | SECS | SERA | Terre des Hommes | UNICEF | Youth for Youth | YMCA

Sustaining Learning Opportunities Amid a Changing Response

Although the number of Refugee Response Plan (RRP) partners active in the education sector continues to decrease, education actors remain committed to ensuring that Ukrainian children can access learning opportunities, integrate into Romanian schools and build a sense of belonging within their communities.

Across Romania, children and families continued to benefit from a broad range of educational support services, including remedial learning, language courses, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), extracurricular activities and social cohesion initiatives. These interventions play a vital role in helping children overcome the disruptions caused by displacement while supporting their successful integration into the Romanian education system.

At the heart of these efforts is close collaboration between humanitarian organisations, educational institutions and public authorities, ensuring that refugee families receive both practical support and long-term opportunities for inclusion.

Investing in Early Learning and Stronger Education Systems

Quality early childhood education provides children with the foundations they need to learn, develop and thrive.

UNICEF Romania continued to work closely with national, county and local authorities, alongside partners including Step-by-Step, HOLTIS and JRS Romania, to maintain education services in areas hosting large refugee populations, including Bucharest, Brașov, Cluj, Constanța, Maramureș, Tulcea and Vâlcea County.

A cornerstone of this support is the network of 14 Play, Learning and Parenting Hubs (PLPHs), implemented in partnership with the Step-by-Step Centre. These community-based centres provide early education and care services while creating safe and stimulating environments where young children can develop cognitive, social and emotional skills through structured learning and play.

EDUCATION

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Beyond direct support to children, Step-by-Step continued to strengthen the quality of services through ongoing technical assistance, pedagogical guidance and tailored consultations for educational personnel working across the hubs. By investing in teacher capacity and service quality, the programme contributes not only to children's development but also to UNICEF's broader objective of promoting inclusive education systems capable of supporting refugee integration over the long term.

The RomExpo Education Desk Helps Families Navigate School Integration

For refugee families, understanding how to access education can be as important as access to the classroom itself.

The RomExpo Education Desk, operated in collaboration with the Bucharest School Inspectorate (ISMB), continued to serve as a vital entry point for Ukrainian families seeking information and support regarding school enrolment, academic integration and recognition of studies.
Demand for assistance remained high throughout the reporting period. The Desk responded to 402 requests for information and processed 113 school registration requests, reflecting the continued need for guidance among both newly arrived and long-term refugee families.

Efforts to support educational inclusion extended well beyond administrative procedures. Information sessions on enrolment in preparatory class (Grade 0), organised jointly with ISMB, reached 236 Ukrainian parents and helped families better understand national enrolment requirements. At the same time, support for study recognition and equivalency procedures continued, with 12 student files facilitated in cooperation with Bucharest schools to ensure smoother academic transitions.

The Education Desk also played an important protection role. Following concerns raised by parents regarding school environments, cases were referred to ISMB and resulted in corrective actions aimed at improving compliance with regulations concerning Ukrainian students' rights and educational procedures.

Recognising the importance of academic success, partners also organised Romanian language examination simulations for 45 Ukrainian students in Grades 8 and 12, helping them prepare for upcoming assessments and strengthen their confidence. Additional sessions are planned in response to strong demand. Continuous counselling and day-to-day support remained available to families, including newly arrived refugees, students facing language barriers and families requiring liaison with the Ilfov School Inspectorate.

The visibility and impact of these initiatives were further highlighted through two visits by UNICEF UK, which supported knowledge exchange and documentation of education programmes for Ukrainian children in Romania.

School Mediators Bridge the Gap Between Families and Schools

Successful integration into education often depends on having trusted people who can help families navigate unfamiliar systems and overcome everyday challenges.

Through UNICEF-supported programmes, JRS Romania provided educational support to 310 children and 227 parents during the reporting period, including 61 children participating in activities at the RomExpo Playground. Since the beginning of 2026, a total of 553 children have benefited from support through the programme.

Additional services reached 197 children and 100 adults in Bucharest, as well as 112 children and 103 adults in Constanța. A network of ten school mediators worked closely with families, schools and education authorities to address concerns related to school attendance, enrolment and integration. Operating under formal cooperation protocols with the School Inspectorates of Bucharest and Constanța, mediators continue to play a key role in strengthening communication and coordination among all stakeholders involved in children's education.

JRS also maintained learning activities for 45 preschool-aged children at its centre in Bucharest, ensuring that younger learners continue to benefit from educational and developmental opportunities.

Expanding Educational Opportunities Beyond Formal Schooling

Education extends beyond the classroom, helping refugees develop language skills, access services and strengthen their participation in community life.

Through its Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) project, JRS Romania continued educational activities at the Regional Centres in Constanța and Galați, including outreach to Tulcea and Brăila. More than 400 migrant children and 530 adults benefited from counselling on education access, school enrolment, social benefits and language learning opportunities.
Four teachers and one volunteer delivered daily Romanian language courses in various formats, helping participants strengthen communication skills that are essential for both educational success and broader integration.

In Bucharest, educational opportunities were further expanded through a European Social Fund (ESF) project, which provided learning activities to more than 200 children and adults, reinforcing the importance of lifelong learning pathways for refugee and migrant communities.

EDUCATION

© Save the Children

Supporting Academic Success and Inclusion Through Targeted Learning Support

Language acquisition, remedial education and after-school activities continue to play a vital role in helping refugee children succeed in Romanian schools.

Save the Children Romania (SCR) continued to provide educational support to Ukrainian refugees and other vulnerable groups, including preschool children, school-aged children and adolescents. Activities were delivered through schools and educational centres and focused on improving educational outcomes while promoting inclusion.
Programmes included Romanian and English language classes, homework support, remedial learning activities and after-school programmes. Save the Children also continued to facilitate the enrolment of refugee children into the Romanian education system, helping schools and families create more inclusive learning environments.

In April, 66 children benefited from educational support through SCR programmes, including after-school and remedial activities for 30 children and one preschool child, as well as Romanian and English language classes attended by 57 children.

Looking Ahead: Addressing Systemic Barriers to Educational Inclusion

While significant progress has been made in supporting refugee children's integration into Romanian schools, several structural challenges continue to affect educational inclusion.

Partners continue to highlight the need for more reliable data on refugee children's enrolment, attendance, educational needs and access to specialised support services. Improved information systems would help identify children requiring additional assistance, including remedial education, language support, literacy in the Latin alphabet and specialised services for children with disabilities.

Additional priorities include expanding support for schools integrating migrant children, strengthening teacher training on multicultural education, increasing the availability of school mediators nationwide, and creating more after-school and extracurricular opportunities for children whose parents are employed.

Partners also continue to advocate for clearer pathways to Romanian language learning and assessment, including intensive language courses, equitable access to examinations and the potential establishment of regional Romanian language learning and testing centres.

Addressing these challenges will be essential to ensuring that every refugee child can access quality education, achieve their academic potential and build a successful future in Romania.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Building Safety and Resilience for Refugee Women and Girls in Romania

14 PARTNERS appealing

28,000 PEOPLE TARGETED in 2026

$2.5M FINANCIAL REQUEST in 2026

Total appeal — Funded / Unfunded

$2.3M — 90.7%

WORKING GROUP CO-CHAIRS

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

Guvernul României — Agenția Națională pentru Egalitatea de Șanse între Femei și Bărbați

KEY PARTNERS

UNFPA

unicef for every child

Full list of sectoral appealing partners: AIDRom | Association Malva | City Makers | Dr. Max Foundation | EDNAE | EEIRH | Sibiu Community Foundation | Necuvinte |Plan International | Tineri pentru Tineri| UNFPA | UNHCR | UNICEF

Creating Safe Spaces for Connection, Healing and Empowerment

For refugee women, safe spaces can provide far more than social interaction. They offer opportunities to rebuild confidence, strengthen support networks and develop the resilience needed to navigate displacement and adaptation.

Throughout April, UNHCR's Women's Club at the RomExpo Community Centre continued to serve as a welcoming space where women could share experiences, explore creative activities and support one another in a safe and inclusive environment.

On 2 April, eight women and their daughters gathered for a session that combined informal discussion with a creative workshop focused on designing handmade earrings. Beyond the artistic activity, the session encouraged conversations about everyday challenges, coping mechanisms and sources of personal strength. Participants reflected on their own experiences while connecting with others facing similar circumstances. A personal testimony shared by the UNHCR facilitator about the role of creativity during a difficult period resonated strongly with participants and encouraged open dialogue around emotional wellbeing and resilience.

The positive atmosphere continued on 14 April when the Women's Club hosted a meet-and-talk session over coffee with a renowned Ukrainian fashion designer. Through candid discussions about displacement, adaptation and rebuilding livelihoods, participants explored how personal talents and hobbies can become pathways towards greater self-reliance. Practical advice on design, sewing, entrepreneurship and personal branding was complemented by conversations about overcoming adversity and recognising individual strengths. The session fostered confidence, creativity and emotional wellbeing while inspiring participants to consider new opportunities for economic independence.

Together, these activities demonstrated the importance of community-based spaces that promote psychosocial support, mutual encouragement and women's empowerment.

Financial Literacy as a Tool for Protection and Independence

Economic insecurity can increase vulnerability and limit opportunities for women seeking to rebuild their lives after displacement. Strengthening financial literacy is therefore an important component of broader protection efforts.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

©Dr. Max Foundation

On 22 April, JRS Romania Association organised a dissemination event for the European Union-funded project "FinEd4NPOs – Women's Financial Health: Training for NPOs", implemented in Austria, Hungary and Romania under the ERASMUS+ programme between January 2025 and May 2026.

The event brought together representatives of civil society organisations, public institutions and international agencies to present the project's key achievements and lessons learned. Central to the initiative was the development of a financial education curriculum designed to strengthen the capacity of organisations and service providers working with women in vulnerable situations.

By equipping professionals with practical tools and methodologies, the curriculum aims to support women's financial literacy, autonomy and resilience, enabling them to make informed financial decisions and strengthen their long-term economic security.

The event also provided an opportunity for stakeholders to exchange experiences and explore how financial education can contribute to women's empowerment, social inclusion and the prevention of vulnerabilities, including those associated with gender-based violence.

Strengthening Institutional Responses to Gender-Based Violence

Preventing and responding to gender-based violence requires coordinated action across multiple sectors, institutions and communities.

On 29 April, UNHCR participated in a stakeholder event organised by AIDRom that brought together representatives of public institutions, civil society organisations, academia and the private sector to discuss key challenges affecting women and girls.

The event featured two roundtable discussions focused on access to services and institutional barriers to gender-based violence prevention and response, as well as the relationship between economic autonomy, integration and vulnerability prevention. Participants exchanged experiences, identified common challenges and explored opportunities for strengthening coordination and service delivery.

Drawing on operational experience from the refugee response, UNHCR shared practical insights, examples of effective approaches and recommendations aimed at strengthening protection mechanisms and improving support for survivors. The discussions generated valuable recommendations that can inform future policy development, standards and programming related to gender-based violence prevention and response.

Looking Ahead: Expanding Support for Women and Girls

The activities carried out throughout April highlighted the continued importance of holistic approaches that combine psychosocial support, economic empowerment and access to quality services.

While progress has been made in creating safe spaces and strengthening community support networks, refugee women continue to require sustained opportunities for emotional wellbeing and recovery. Expanding pathways to economic empowerment and financial literacy remains essential for strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability.

At the same time, continued efforts are needed to improve access to specialised services and strengthen institutional responses to gender-based violence risks. Building stronger links between protection services, social support systems and economic inclusion initiatives will be critical to ensuring that women and girls can access the support they need to live safely, independently and with dignity.

LIVELIHOODS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION

Promoting Refugee Inclusion Through Education, Employment, and Recognition of Qualifications

© UNHCR/IoanaMoldovan

25 PARTNERS appealing

13,300 PEOPLE TARGETED in 2026

$10.9M FINANCIAL REQUEST in 2026

Total appeal — Funded / Unfunded

$10.9M — 97%

WORKING GROUP CO-CHAIRS

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

World Vision

KEY PARTNERS

IOM UN MIGRATION

JOBS FOR UKRAINE

Salvați Copiii Save the Children Romania

Migrant Integration Center Brasov Empowering Inclusion

fundația comunitară Sibiu

NOVAPOLIS

Commit GLOBAL

Full list of sectoral appealing partners: ADDJB | ADPARE | Association Malva | Ateliere fara frontiere | City Makers | Civic Radauti Association | Commit Global | Sibiu Community Foundation | Help Ukrainians | IOM | JRS Romania | Metropolitan Agency for Durable Development Brasov | Migrant Integration Centre Brasov | National Youth Foundation | Plan International | Project Voyager | REF Romania | Salvati Copiii | UNHCR | UNICEF | World Vision Romanian | YMCA

Understanding Rights and Accessing Social Assistance

For many refugees, achieving self-reliance begins with understanding the social protection systems available to support them during periods of transition and vulnerability.

On 21 April, UNHCR brought together refugee community members at the RomExpo Community Centre for an information session dedicated to access to social assistance, with a particular focus on Romania's Minimum Inclusive Income (VMI) programme. The session welcomed 10 participants from diverse age groups, including students, working-age adults and older persons, all seeking practical guidance on eligibility criteria and application procedures.

For some participants, the session offered an opportunity to better understand why previous applications had been unsuccessful and to explore possible next steps. Others attended to gain clarity before submitting applications of their own. Discussions also highlighted specific challenges faced by students residing in dormitories, drawing attention to barriers that can prevent certain groups from accessing available support.

Beyond the technical information provided, the session fostered peer exchange and mutual learning, allowing participants to share experiences and practical advice. By improving awareness of available social protection mechanisms, the initiative helped refugees make more informed decisions and navigate complex administrative processes with greater confidence.

Refugee community members attend an information session on social assistance and inclusion pathways at the RomExpo Community Centre, facilitated by UNHCR.

LIVELIHOODS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION

© UNHCR/Mihai Eremia

Removing Barriers to Employment Through Integrated Support

Access to employment often depends on much more than job opportunities alone. Language skills, childcare and educational support can be equally important in helping refugees build independent and sustainable lives.

Throughout April, Save the Children continued to support refugee families through a comprehensive approach that combines language learning, labour market counselling and practical support services designed to address multiple barriers to employment.

Romanian language classes remained a cornerstone of these efforts, helping refugees strengthen the communication skills needed to access jobs, public services and wider community life. Labour market counselling complemented these activities by providing guidance on employment pathways and opportunities available in Romania.

Recognising that economic inclusion is closely linked to family circumstances, Save the Children also provided educational support, childcare services and English language classes. By helping parents manage childcare responsibilities while simultaneously improving skills and language proficiency, these interventions create opportunities for caregivers—particularly women—to pursue employment and increase their financial independence.

The programme demonstrates how integrated service models can strengthen self-reliance by addressing the interconnected challenges that often prevent refugees from fully participating in the labour market.

Looking Ahead: Persistent Barriers to Inclusion and Self-Reliance

While refugees continue to demonstrate strong motivation to integrate and achieve economic independence, significant obstacles remain.
Access to social assistance programmes such as the Minimum Inclusive Income (VMI) continues to be challenging for many families due to complex administrative procedures, limited understanding of eligibility requirements and inconsistent application outcomes. Individuals whose applications are rejected often require clearer information on appeal mechanisms and alternative forms of support.

Language barriers also remain one of the most significant challenges affecting both labour market integration and access to public services. Demand for Romanian language courses continues to exceed available capacity, particularly among newly arrived refugees and those at beginner proficiency levels.

Childcare responsibilities represent another major barrier, particularly for women seeking employment. Expanding integrated support services that combine childcare, education and employment assistance will remain critical to increasing labour market participation and promoting economic independence.

While community-based approaches are demonstrating positive results, ensuring consistent access to these services across different regions of Romania remains a challenge. Continued investment in integrated support models will be essential to strengthening refugees' pathways towards long-term inclusion, self-reliance and sustainable livelihoods.

Spotlight story

Rebuilding a dream in Bucharest

The story of a Ukrainian refugee who fulfilled her lifelong dream

ART. RESILIENCE. A NEW BEGINNING

Alla, a Ukrainian refugee who arrived in Romania three and a half years ago, has opened her own art studio in Bucharest — a dream she had long wanted to pursue back in Ukraine but never acted on. Back home, she worked as a teacher in a public school; now she runs a creative space where children learn through play rather than formal instruction.

A NEW BEGINNING THROUGH ART

Alla turned her lifelong passion for art into a reality by opening her own studio in Bucharest. Here, children explore, create and express themselves in a warm and welcoming space.

LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

In Alla's studio, children learn through creativty, play and imagination. Her approach focuses on joy, self-expression and building confidence.

FINDING BELONGING IN ROMANIA

Alla works daily with children from Romania, Moldova and Ukraine, and is even picking up Romanian from some of her young students. She says the work helps her cope with homesickness and the weight of what is happening in her country.

FAMILY SUPPORT EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

Her son Pavlo, who had been studying abroad when the war began and now lives in Romania, is her biggest supporter. He helps out at the studio and describes it as his mother's adventure — one the whole family is proud of.

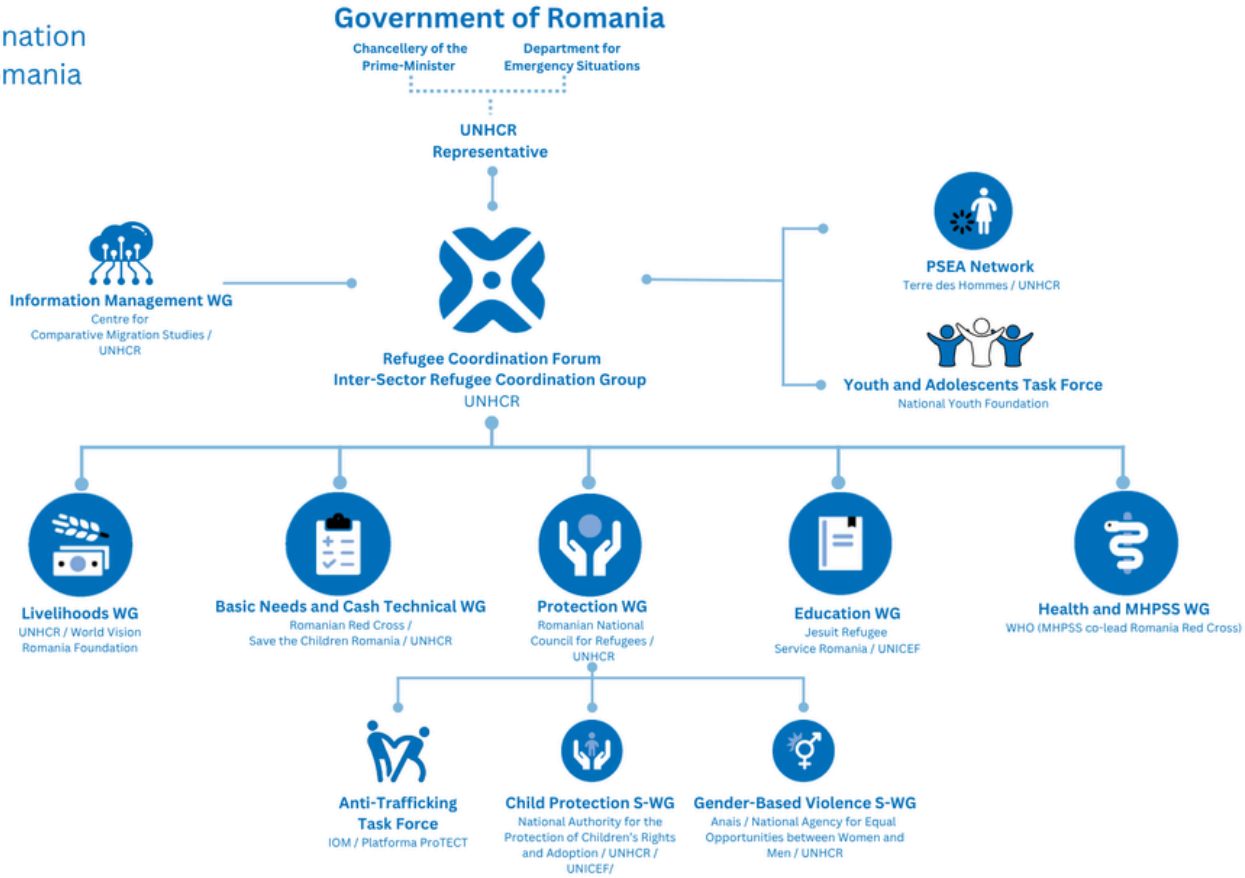
> It is different, regardless of whether the children are from Ukraine or somewhere else. The approach is different because every child has their own personality. It helps me escape the dark thoughts and the longing for home. These have been difficult years, being far away from home while such a great tragedy is happening in your country.
>
> - Alla, refugee

> The studio is my mother's adventure, and we are all proud of her. Sometimes I come here during the lessons just to help her with different things, and when the classes are over, I help her put the drawings up on the walls. For me too, it is a comforting space. I am putting my life back in order, supporting my family, and trying to grow and become independent.
>
> - Pavlo, Alla's son

Learn more about Alla's story on TVR Info full article

Working in partnership

Refugee Coordination Structure in Romania



In 2026, the Inter-Agency platform comprises of the following 43 appealing partners implementing humanitarian activities in Romania for refugees from Ukraine:

ADPARE | ADDJB | AIDRom | Asociația Moașelor Independente | ASSOC | Ateliere Fără Frontiere | City Makers | Civic Rădăuți Association | CNRR | Commit Global | Drumul Vieții | EDNAE | EEIRH | FONSS | Habitat for Humanity | Help Ukrainians | IOM | Jesuit Refugee Service Romania | MALVA | Metropolitan Agency for Durable Development Brașov | Migrant Integration Centre Brașov | National Youth Foundation | Necuvinte | Novapolis | ParentIS | PATRIR | Plan International | Project Voyager | Roma Education Fund | RomaJust | Save the Children Romania | SECS | Sensiblu Foundation | SERA | Sibiu Community Foundation | Terre des Hommes | Tineri pentru Tineri | UNFPA | UNICEF | UNHCR | WHO | World Vision Romania | YMCA Romania

For more information, please contact the Inter-Agency Coordination Unit:

Simina Costea
Assistant Inter-Agency Coordination Officer, Romania
Email: costea@unhcr.org

Ioana Davidescu
Inter-Agency Coordination Assistant, Romania
Email: davidesc@unhcr.org

LINKS:

Regional data portal
Romania Page
Ukraine Situation RRP
Refugee Funding Tracker
Romania Refugee Response Plan - Results