ROMANIA

Weekly Update #205 **20 July 2026**

Key figures

212,334 refugees obtained temporary protection and refugee status in Romania (as of end May 2026).

1,801 refugees supported with community-based protection activities in 2026.

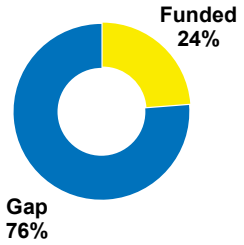
4,962 refugees provided with protection counselling services and legal support in 2026.

1,628 refugees supported with livelihood and employment services in 2026.

"For refugees from Ukraine, safety means having access to information, the support of the community and the reassurance that we are not alone in difficult times."
Olena, a 65-year-old refugee from Zaporizhzhia Ukraine, living in Bucharest, Romania.

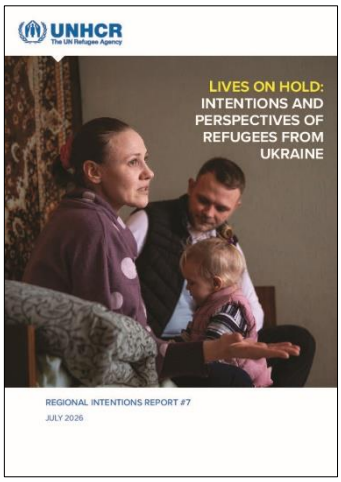
UNHCR Romania Funding Situation

As of 30 June 2026
$23.4 million
UNHCR's funding requirements 2026



Highlight

More than four years after the start of the full-scale invasion, millions of Ukrainians remain displaced, with 3.8 million internally displaced within Ukraine and nearly 5.8 million refugees worldwide, including over 5.2 million in Europe. In Romania, more than 212,000 refugees remain under temporary protection. In this context of protracted displacement and continued uncertainty, understanding refugees' intentions and the factors shaping their decisions is essential for informing policies and durable solutions. UNHCR's seventh *Lives on Hold* report presents findings from 4,375 refugee household interviews conducted across Europe between December 2025 and January 2026. Among refugees surveyed in Romania, 46 per cent said they would be likely to return to Ukraine if the war ended, increasing to 75 per cent if the war ended and Ukraine regained control over all temporarily occupied territories, while 9 per cent remained undecided and 17 per cent said they would be unlikely to return under either scenario. Building on previous research on return intentions, this latest edition explores how refugees' plans and aspirations may differ depending on how the war evolves and eventually ends, recognizing that future scenarios will significantly influence decisions about returning to Ukraine.



Response and Advocacy

During the past week, UNHCR's partner, the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR), delivered legal counselling and protection support to 133 Ukrainian refugees across Romania, focusing on access to social assistance, education, healthcare and housing. Through individual case management, CNRR supported refugees in overcoming administrative barriers affecting access to essential services and social benefits. The organization also continued to engage with relevant authorities to clarify procedures, resolve documentation issues and strengthen referral pathways. CNRR assisted newly arrived and vulnerable refugees in accessing emergency accommodation and healthcare, including by facilitating referrals to municipal social services and supporting registration with family doctors. Protection counselling was provided to survivors of gender-based violence, refugees with serious medical needs to access treatment, and helped families navigate higher education admission procedures and other administrative requirements to promote longer-term inclusion and self-reliance. Since the beginning of 2026, UNHCR and its partners have provided protection counselling and legal support to 4,962 refugees.

UNHCR continues to support refugees through community-based activities at its Community Centre for refugees at RomExpo, in Bucharest, providing opportunities to strengthen skills, foster social connections and support integration into the host community. On 15 July, a session of the Romanian Speaking Club, supported by a community volunteer and UNHCR colleagues, brought together refugees in an informal and welcoming environment to practise Romanian through interactive discussions and speaking exercises. The session explored summer-related vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation and everyday conversations, including travel situations. The Romanian Speaking Club helps refugees build confidence in using Romanian in daily life, while promoting social inclusion through language practice, community engagement and meaningful interaction with native speakers.

UNHCR is grateful to the donors for unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions to the Ukraine situation. UNHCR in Romania is also grateful to donors contributing to its 2026 programmes. For more details: Romania Funding Update – 2026