

ROMANIA

Weekly Update #216

5 October 2026

Key figures

223,808 refugees obtained temporary protection and refugee status in Romania (as of end August 2026).

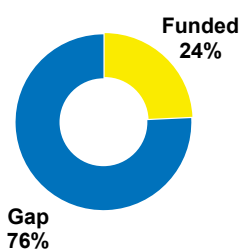
2,350 refugees supported with community-based protection activities in 2026.

7,108 refugees provided with protection counselling services and legal support in 2026.

2,163 refugees supported with livelihood and employment services in 2026.

“We are sincerely grateful to UNHCR and its donors for their continued support and for creating opportunities for us to come together. It is difficult to put our gratitude into words - we truly appreciate this care and kindness. We are already looking forward to the next activity.” *Valentina, a 73-year-old refugee from Odesa, Ukraine, living in Bucharest, Romania.*

UNHCR Romania Funding Situation
 As of 30 September 2026
\$23.4 million
 UNHCR's funding requirements 2026



Highlight

On 1 October, UNHCR re-established its partnership with Estuar, an NGO specialized in mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). Until the end of 2026, the partnership with Estuar will provide psychosocial and emotional support to 50 refugees from Ukraine living in Bucharest and Prahova county, selected according to identified needs and vulnerability criteria. Support will include some 400 individual counselling and psychological support sessions, information, orientation and referrals to specialized services, as well as initial and follow-up assessments to monitor beneficiaries' progress. The partnership will also include the capacity building of 11 Estuar staff and MHPSS capacity building and self-care support for 20 staff from civil society organizations working with refugees through training on burnout prevention and staff wellbeing, crisis intervention and psychological first aid and support. **UNHCR is also increasing support to it partners the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR) and the Centre for Comparative Migration Studies (CSCM), using savings generated in other areas.** This will help sustain and expand essential services, ensuring that refugees can continue to access timely and appropriate assistance.

UNHCR held meetings with Mr. Mircea-Dorin Crețu, Prefect of Sibiu county, county administration officials, Ms. Astrid Cora Fodor, Mayor of Sibiu, and Mr. Gheorghe Roman, Mayor of Mediaș to discuss the situation and inclusion of refugees from Ukraine and other countries who have found safety in Romania. UNHCR expressed its appreciation for the welcome extended by local authorities and communities and for their continued efforts to support the inclusion of refugees to access employment, education, language learning, and other essential services, enabling them to rebuild their lives in safety and dignity and become active members of their host communities. The UNHCR Representative, Mr. Pablo Zapata, and the UNHCR team provided an update on the refugee situation and presented UNHCR's work to protect and support refugees across the country. UNHCR also met with its three grant partners in Sibiu County: the community-based organization Phoneo, including for a participatory assessment with Ukrainian refugee women, and the refugee-led organizations Arab Cultural Centre and ACUM, where a participatory assessment was conducted with older refugee women. UNHCR looks forward to continuing its close cooperation with local authorities to promote refugee inclusion and ensure that people seeking protection can access the support they need to build a safe and dignified future.



UNHCR Romania met with the Prefect of Sibiu county, county administration officials, the Mayor of Sibiu, and the Mayor of Mediaș.
 Photo: UNHCR

Response and Advocacy

On 1 October, UNHCR organised two creative sessions to mark the International Day of Older Persons with the support of NGO Red Panda, bringing together 22 participants, some accompanied by friends, children or grandchildren, who created colourful gifts to take home. The sessions provided an opportunity for older persons to spend time together and connect with others. Participants expressed their appreciation for initiatives that help older persons feel seen, valued and supported. On 29 September, an art workshop brought together families with children and adult participants. The participants exchanged ideas, expressed their creativity and enjoyed creating their own handmade items in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

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](#)