

ROMANIA

Weekly Update #217

12 October 2026

Key figures

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

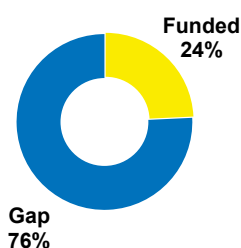
2,350 refugees supported with community-based protection activities in 2026.

7,778 refugees provided with protection counselling services and legal support in 2026.

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

“UNHCR’s information support and community activities help us feel less alone - Ukrainians in Brăila face serious challenges, including limited job opportunities and housing difficulties, especially older people who have fled temporarily occupied territories or lost their homes due to the war.”
Nina, a refugee from Odesa, Ukraine, living in Brăila, Romania.

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



Highlight

On 5 October, UNHCR partner Project Voyager received the [UNHCR “Hope Away from Home” award](#) for initiatives that help refugees build a new beginnings in Romania for its Jobs4Ukraine project at the 24th edition of the Civil Society Gala. Projects shortlisted for the award were assessed by a joint panel comprising of IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF and WHO. Project Voyager also won second prize in the [Economic and Social Development](#) category, and the [Social Impact](#) award. The Jobs4Ukraine initiative helps refugees from Ukraine access employment through career counselling, training courses, workshops, recruitment events and direct connections with employers. Held annually, the Civil Society Gala celebrates civic engagement in Romania. Initiated in 2002 by The Institute, a non-governmental organization supporting creative and civic initiatives, the event recognizes outstanding projects, campaigns and programmes led by civil society organizations.



On 5 October, UNHCR took part in the 24th edition of the Civil Society Gala – Romania’s annual event celebrating civic engagement. Photo: UNHCR

Response and Advocacy

On 9 October, as part of the opening of the 11th edition of [Bucharest Photofest](#), UNHCR launched *Witness: Images that Refuse to Forget*, a collective photography exhibition marking the 75th anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention. Through powerful images, the exhibition highlights UNHCR’s work to protect refugees and help them find safety and build new lives. The exhibition invites visitors to reflect on the experiences of people forced to flee their homes, the challenges they face in displacement, and the importance of solidarity and protection. It also underscores the role of photography in documenting displacement, preserving memories and raising awareness of the realities faced by refugees. On 11 October, British photographer Justin Quinnell led a masterclass for 20 refugees, offering participants an opportunity to explore photography as a means of creative expression and storytelling. The session encouraged participants to develop their photographic skills and share their perspectives through images. Bucharest Photofest continues until 18 October, with a programme of exhibitions, workshops and film screenings.



At Bucharest Photofest, UNHCR launched an exhibition marking the 75th anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention and supported a photography masterclass for refugees. Photos: UNHCR

On 7 October, UNHCR held a focus group discussion in Brăila with 15 Ukrainian refugees aged 28–75 as part of its participatory assessment in Romania. Participants shared their experiences and priority needs concerning interaction with the host community, language barriers, access to information and services, education, health care, social protection, housing, employment and livelihoods, and legal and administrative procedures. They also highlighted challenges faced by older persons and families of children with disabilities, underscoring the need for clearer information, more accessible services and stronger community support. In addition, on 6 October, UNHCR organised a creative activity for 27 Ukrainian children and adults at the Carol I Museum in Brăila, with support from a Ukrainian community activist from NGO Inimă de Copil. The activity included an interactive game focused on the rights of women and girls, followed by a creative workshop. The activity provided an opportunity for community members to interact, strengthen social connections and spend time together in a safe, inclusive and welcoming environment.

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](#)