

Inter-Agency Newsletter

REFUGEE COORDINATION FORUM | ROMANIA

185,984 Temporary Protection holders in Romania
(as of 31 May 2025)



8.6 million border crossings from
Ukraine and Moldova since February 2022

965,750 third-country nationals arrived
in Romania from Ukraine and Moldova

7.6 million Ukrainians arrived
in Romania from Ukraine and
Moldova

Current funding level*

42

TOTAL APPEALING PARTNERS

\$82.8 M

TOTAL APPEALED BUDGET



12%

\$10.3 M

TOTAL FUNDING
RECEIVED

\$72.5 M

TOTAL
FUNDING GAP

Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion
Protection
Basic Needs
Public Health and MHPSS
Education
Child Protection
Gender-based Violence

Received	Appealed
\$1.7M	\$16.5 M
\$3.7M	\$16.2M
\$1.4M	\$15.7M
\$1.5M	\$10.1M
\$0.7M	\$9.3M
\$0.8M	\$8.7M
\$0.4M	\$6.3M

*as of end of Q1

2025 Achievements



Support for Public
Authorities

183

personnel trained



Strengthening
Social Cohesion

1,713

participants from both refugee and
host communities in initiatives and
events



Romanian courses
for integration

2,837

people provided with
Romanian languages classes

People reached by sector



Protection
29,176



Education
2,452



Basic Needs
24,501



Child Protection
8,410



Health and Nutrition
5,183



Cash Assistance
7,285



Gender-Based Violence
3,535



MHPSS
6,645



Livelihoods and Socio-
Economic Inclusion
4,012

Operational context

Under the Refugee Response Plan (RRP), UN agencies and NGO partners continue to work closely with national and local authorities through the Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) and sectoral working groups. These collaborative mechanisms remain central to ensuring a coherent, effective, and inclusive response to the needs of refugees across Romania.

As of 31 May 2025, Romania has granted Temporary Protection to 185,984 individuals from Ukraine and third-country nationals, according to the General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI). This protection status provides access to essential services, including healthcare, education, and employment, laying the groundwork for longer-term integration.

Advancing Local Coordination in Suceava

On 13 May, the Suceava Refugee Inclusion Working Group, comprising 22 representatives from local authorities, UN agencies, and NGOs, convened to adopt its Terms of Reference and approve its 2025 workplan. The meeting prioritized coordination, advocacy, and capacity-building initiatives in support of refugee inclusion. Two refugee-led organizations, EDNAE and Active Ukrainians, presented their community-based initiatives and emphasized the importance of seed funding, provided by UNHCR, in launching their work, particularly in the absence of broader financing opportunities for newly established entities.

Institutional Synergy in Suceava County

To further consolidate local coordination, Suceava Prefecture convened the first meeting of the Local Support Team for the Social Integration of Foreigners on 27 May. Representatives of government bodies, public service providers, and NGOs exchanged information about the services available at the Regional Reception Centre for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Rădăuți. Work is being undertaken to develop closer institutional linkages between this newly formed Support Team and the existing Suceava Refugee Inclusion Working Group. These efforts aim to foster more sustainable, integrated coordination at the county level, bridging humanitarian response with long-term development planning.

Local Integration Planning in Constanța

On 22 May, Constanța Prefecture hosted its quarterly Local Integration Team meeting, gathering public institutions and humanitarian partners to share updates and align efforts. Participants included representatives from the County School Inspectorate, social assistance departments, immigration authorities from Constanța and Galați, the Health Insurance House, employment and social inspection agencies, the Department of Public Health, and the Border Police. UN agencies and NGOs such as UNHCR, World Vision Romania, CNRR, JRS Romania, Novapolis, and the Romanian Red Cross also took part. Discussions highlighted ongoing challenges in delivering social services, employment and education support, and healthcare access, particularly the need for interpreters during emergencies and sustainable funding solutions.

Promoting Social Cohesion in Brașov

A similar momentum was visible in Brașov, where the Prefecture and UNHCR co-chaired the year's second Inclusion of Refugees Working Group on 26 May. Nearly 30 participants from public institutions and civil society came together to address persistent barriers to refugee inclusion in the areas of education, healthcare, social protection, and the labour market. The meeting served as a platform to share lessons learned and explore new approaches to strengthen community-level integration and social cohesion.

Spotlight story - RRP partner Roma Education Fund

The Roma Education Fund established the One Stop Shop on 25 April 2023 with the support of the Council of Europe Development Bank's Migrants and Refugees Fund. The centre is a Roma-specific, community-centred hub that offers a comprehensive "all-in-one" support system for Roma refugees from Ukraine covering education, psychological support, integration services, and digital skills training. Its mission is to offer centralized assistance to displaced Roma individuals and families arriving from Ukraine. The "one-stop" approach removes bureaucratic hurdles and accelerates support delivery. It aims to streamline access to educational and language programs, psychological and trauma-informed support, and social services and integration assistance.

Since its launch, the One Stop Shop facilitators (which include some Roma from Ukraine) assessed hundreds of refugees' needs. Since it opened, the centre delivered educational programs for some 75 children (English, drawing, digital/photo/video workshops). Psychological care has been offered to about 30 adult caregivers, addressing war trauma (depression, anxiety, PTSD). A Digital Skills Academy with Accenture Romania was launched in March 2024 - introducing computing, internet safety, beginner programming. The centre also hosts seasonal and cultural events, including a Children's Day celebration on 1 June, and an urban summer camp in collaboration with Școala de Valori.

Nadiia, a 26-year-old refugee from Odesa, is one of the many members of the Roma community helped through the centre. Three years ago, on 24 February 2022, Nadiia, then pregnant with her fifth child, fled from Ukraine with her family seeking safety in Romania. Roma Education Fund's One Stop Shop helped Nadiia to find work that fitted



around her children's school timetable. This has given Nadia a feeling of inclusion that made her feel seen and valued thanks to the opportunity to work with dignity.

The Roma Education Fund (REF) is a non-governmental organization dedicated to building resilient Roma communities through education. Established in 2005 via a partnership between the World Bank and the Open Society Foundations, REF has invested over €120 million in initiatives across 16 countries, impacting more than 100,000 Roma individuals of all ages. REF's mission is to enhance the resilience of Roma communities against social, economic, environmental, health, and political challenges through education. Its vision is to create a supportive environment for every child, young person, and parent, empowering them to develop personal resilience in rapidly changing societies. So far in 2025, the Roma Education Fund reached 176 people in need in Romania.

Protection

Romanian National Council for Refugees

Working Group co-chairs UNHCR

Appealing sectoral partners

- ADPARE
- City Makers
- East European Institute for Reproductive Health (EIRH)
- FONSS
- HIAS
- 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
- Sensiblu Foundation
- Sibiu Community Foundation
- Terre des Hommes
- Tineri Pentru Tineri
- UNHCR
- UNICEF
- World Vision Romania

Supporting Refugees Through Information, Access, and Advocacy

Ensuring Protection and Access at Romania's Borders

In May, RRP partners continued to collaborate to safeguard the rights of refugees and asylum seekers across Romania. UNHCR and the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR) maintained joint efforts to ensure access to both international and temporary protection, responding to individual cases where people encountered barriers at entry points or in accessing asylum procedures. Notably, two interventions were undertaken to resolve such challenges, reaffirming partners' commitment to upholding refugee protection standards.

To support this work, CNRR and UNHCR conducted border monitoring missions at key crossing points, including Galați, Siret, and Vicovu de Sus. These missions provided insight into protection risks at the borders and enabled direct engagement with authorities to promote rights-based access for those in need of protection.

Expanding Outreach and Information Dissemination

In a continued effort to raise awareness among those on the move, UNHCR and CNRR expanded their information outreach at the border. New panels and materials were installed at several key crossing points along the Romanian–Moldovan border, providing practical guidance on the right to seek asylum and the entitlements of temporary protection holders. Further installations are planned to broaden the reach of these critical



messages, ensuring that people understand their rights and know how to access available services.

Supporting Displaced Women Through Counselling and Integration

Meanwhile, Save the Children Romania played a central role in supporting refugees—particularly displaced women from Ukraine—through its network of Counselling Hubs and Integration Centres. Operating in Bucharest, Baia Mare, Galați, Iași, and Suceava, these centers offered a range of individualized services tailored to promote self-reliance and access to essential rights.

Over 1,000 adults received support in May, including legal counselling, assistance navigating Romania's social protection schemes (such as the minimum inclusion wage and disability allowances), and help in securing employment. Save the Children also supported access to public healthcare by registering individuals with family doctors, accompanying them to medical appointments, and providing interpretation and basic assistance to meet urgent needs.

Sustaining a Protection-Centred Approach

These collective efforts reflect the ongoing commitment of RRP partners to deliver comprehensive, rights-based protection and support. Through field presence, institutional partnerships, and direct assistance, actors are helping ensure that displaced individuals in Romania can access services, rebuild their lives, and exercise their rights with dignity and security.

For the latest progress against the sector indicators please consult this [dashboard](#).

Child Protection

Sub-Working Group co-chairs

UNHCR

UNICEF

Appealing sectoral partners

- ADPARE
- Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR)
- City Makers
- East European Institute for Reproductive Health (EEIRH)
- FONSS
- HIAS
- IOM
- JRS Romania
- MALVA
- Metropolitan Agency for Durable Development Brasov
- Migrant Integration Centre Brasov
- National Youth Foundation
- Necuvinte
- Novapolis
- PATRIR
- Plan International
- RomaJust
- Save the Children Romania
- Sensiblu Foundation
- Sibiu Community Foundation
- Terre des Hommes
- Tineri Pentru Tineri
- UNHCR
- UNICEF
- World Vision Romania

Protecting and Supporting Ukrainian Refugee Children in Romania

Throughout May, partners under the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) continued coordinated efforts to safeguard the rights and well-being of both refugee and host community children in Romania. By prioritizing protection services, social inclusion, and inter-agency collaboration, humanitarian actors worked to ensure that the specific needs of children—especially those displaced from Ukraine—remain central to the response.

Strengthening Coordination and Shared Approaches

On 13 May, the National Authority for the Protection of Child Rights and Adoption (ANPDCA), UNHCR and UNICEF co-chaired the Child Protection Sub-Working Group, bringing together key national and international stakeholders including Romanian Red Cross, and World Vision. Discussions addressed operational shifts and the implications of funding constraints, with several partners sharing programmatic adaptations. World Vision presented an updated service mapping across multiple counties, reinforcing the need for routine updates in response to evolving institutional arrangements. UNICEF also facilitated a session on social cohesion, emphasizing inclusive, community-based integration models and the need for common definitions, measurable indicators, and stronger institutional alignment.

Field-Level Collaboration with Child Protection Authorities

UNICEF deepened its collaboration with county-level General Directorates of Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPCs) in Iași, Prahova, and Suceava. These efforts focused on Ukrainian children previously under state care in Ukraine, now in need of continued support in

Romania. In Iași, social inclusion initiatives included an educational trip to Bucharest and the distribution of basic items such as clothing and footwear. In Prahova, work concentrated on finding long-term care solutions and improving cross-border coordination with Ukrainian authorities. In Suceava, initiatives enhanced access to rehabilitation services for unaccompanied children with disabilities and creating a counselling space equipped to offer psychosocial support.

Fostering Multi-Agency Protection Pathways

From 7 to 9 May, KIND and eLiberare organized the “Journeys to Safety” workshop. Over 35 professionals from child protection agencies, law enforcement, NGOs, and international bodies participated. The event focused on building integrated referral pathways to protect refugee children from violence and exploitation. During the workshop, UNHCR led a dedicated session on the Best Interests Procedure, sharing field experiences from its child-focused case management work and co-leadership of the Inter-Agency Child Protection Sub-Working Group.

Child Protection Services on the Ground

Child protection actors continued to reach thousands of children and families across Romania with prevention-focused services and resilience-building initiatives. World Vision supported over 200 Ukrainian refugee children and 100 parents across five counties, offering child abuse prevention activities, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and parenting workshops. These initiatives were delivered in collaboration with local authorities and community structures and were complemented by inclusive events designed to foster educational and social integration.

Save the Children Romania provided child protection support to 862 children in Bucharest, Baia Mare, Galați, Iași, and Suceava. Services included children's rights counselling, individual case management for at-risk children, and structured parenting sessions using the Safe Families methodology. Mobile teams extended this support to underserved areas, including Bistrița-Năsăud, Maramureș, Satu Mare, and Zalău, helping to close service gaps in more remote communities.

Collectively, these initiatives demonstrate a robust, multi-tiered response to the needs of children affected by displacement. By aligning policy dialogue with field-level action, partners are building a child protection system that not only responds to immediate risks but also promotes long-term inclusion and well-being for refugee children across Romania.

For the latest progress against the sector indicators please consult [this dashboard](#).

Gender-Based Violence

Working Group co-chairs

Anais

National Agency for Equal Opportunities
between Women and Men

UNHCR

Appealing sectoral partners

- ADPARE
- Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR)
- City Makers
- East European Institute for Reproductive Health (EEIRH)
- FONSS
- HIAS
- IOM
- JRS Romania
- MALVA
- Metropolitan Agency for Durable Development Brasov
- Migrant Integration Centre Brasov
- National Youth Foundation
- Necuvinte
- Novapolis
- PATRIR
- Plan International
- RomaJust
- Save the Children Romania
- Sensiblu Foundation
- Sibiu Community Foundation
- Terre des Hommes
- Tineri Pentru Tineri
- UNHCR
- UNICEF
- World Vision Romania

Building Safety and Resilience for Refugee Women and Girls in Romania

In May, partners under the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) continued to reinforce efforts to prevent and respond to gender-based violence (GBV), while promoting gender equality and the well-being of displaced women, men, and children across Romania and neighbouring countries. Activities spanned policy dialogue, community engagement, and innovative service delivery to ensure inclusive and survivor-centred protection.

Strategic Coordination and Policy Dialogue

On 8 May, the GBV Sub-Working Group, co-chaired by UNHCR and the National Agency for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men (ANES), convened key stakeholders to address the growing operational and funding challenges affecting GBV prevention and response. The session featured the launch of ANES's new report, *Improving Access to Healthcare and*

Justice for Sexual Violence Survivors in Romania, developed under the "RoNor – Stronger Together Against Gender-Based Violence!" project. Built on broad consultation with national and Norwegian institutions, Roma-focused NGOs, and expert contributors, the report identifies barriers to care and outlines solutions to strengthen survivor access to critical services.

UNHCR also presented its 2025–2027 GBV Strategy, setting out a strategic vision for future protection work. Partners highlighted innovative practices, including the Sexual Violence Intervention Centre in Târgu Mureș, part of ANES's growing national network, which has helped improve coordinated responses and survivor outcomes. Cross-border efforts were also spotlighted, with a three-day Empowerment through Self-Defence workshop in Chișinău equipping 25 youth participants from Moldova's Youth-Friendly Health Clinics with practical skills and peer-education tools.

Community-Based Protection and Support

Community-level programming remained a cornerstone of GBV prevention. In Galați, UNHCR facilitated a Women’s Club session with nine Ukrainian refugees, focusing on awareness of Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and community safeguarding practices. In Constanța, UNHCR and the Dr. Max Foundation held targeted events addressing the needs of youth and men. On 9 May, a youth-focused GBV awareness session engaged Ukrainian teenagers in interactive discussions and storytelling, promoting critical thinking around gender norms. Later in the month, a men’s support session brought together six Ukrainian men to discuss emotional well-being, adaptation to new environments, and the role of male peer networks in strengthening community resilience.

UNHCR also contributed to professional knowledge-sharing through its participation in the Maternopedia medical conference hosted by NGO SAMAS. During a dedicated session, UNHCR addressed the impact of female genital mutilation (FGM) on refugee women and girls, underlining the importance of timely identification, cross-sectoral care, and survivor-led referral pathways.

Expanding Access to Psychosocial Support

Throughout the month, the Dr. Max Foundation remained a key provider of mental health and psychosocial services for refugee communities. In May, the Foundation conducted 31 counselling sessions (46 hours in total), supported eight new GBV survivors—six of whom received individualized case management, and facilitated six formal referrals. Group activities reached over 240 refugees across Bucharest, Suceava, and Constanța through 24 sessions designed to foster healing, empowerment, and community connection.

Promoting Prevention Through Education

Preventive education was a strong focus throughout May, particularly in school settings. Under the EU-funded SAVE programme, RRP partner Necuvinte, in collaboration with World Vision Romania, implemented the project A Life Without Violence: Preventive Education in Schools. Four interactive workshops were held at Doamna Chiajna Technological High School in Ilfov County, engaging 111 students, including both Romanian and Ukrainian youth. The sessions addressed forms of violence, online safety, EU values, and help-seeking behaviours, encouraging critical dialogue in a safe and inclusive learning environment.

Together, these efforts reflect a growing, multi-faceted GBV response rooted in community engagement, survivor empowerment, and inter-agency cooperation. From cross-border training to grassroots awareness and psychosocial care, partners continued working in solidarity to promote safety, dignity, and equality for all individuals affected by displacement.

For the latest progress against the sector indicators please consult this [dashboard](#).

Education

Working Group co-chairs

Jesuit Refugee Service Romania
UNICEF

Appealing sectoral partners

- ADPARE
- Association of Ukrainian Teachers in Romania
- City Makers
- Civic Rădăuți Association
- Help Ukrainians
- IOM
- JRS Romania
- MALVA
- Metropolitan Agency for Durable Development Brasov
- National Youth Foundation
- Necuvinte
- Novapolis

- PATRIR
- Plan International
- Roma Education Fund
- RomaJust
- Save the Children Romania
- SECS
- SERA
- Sibiu Community Foundation
- Terre des Hommes
- Tineri Pentru Tineri
- UNICEF
- YMCA Romania

Supporting the Inclusion of Refugee and Vulnerable Children Across Romania

Throughout May, partners under the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) continued to strengthen the integration of Ukrainian refugee children and their families into the Romanian education system. Through a diverse set of initiatives, including remedial education, language learning, psychosocial support, and social cohesion activities, partners worked to ensure access to inclusive, quality education for all displaced learners.

Enhancing Access and Guidance for Families

The Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR) provided specialized educational counselling through its regional offices in Bucharest, Braşov, Constanţa, and Suceava. Support focused on school and kindergarten enrolment, referrals to language courses, and guidance on the recognition of academic credentials. A growing trend noted by CNRR was the increasing interest of refugee youth in pursuing secondary and higher education in Romania, signalling deeper integration and long-term settlement plans.

Promoting Integration Through Language and Well-being

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) advanced long-term integration by promoting language acquisition and mental health. To date, 2,821 refugees have participated in Romanian language courses in key cities including Bucharest, Braşov, and Cluj-Napoca. In May, IOM conducted two educator training sessions in Bucharest, attended by 45 teachers, which focused on inclusive teaching methods for migrant children. Additionally, 88 children and adolescents benefited from mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), helping to build resilience and emotional well-being.

Supporting Early Childhood Development and Parental Engagement

UNICEF continued to work closely with local authorities and civil society partners, including Step-by-Step, HOLTIS, and JRS Romania, to promote inclusive education across several regions. Sixteen play, learning, and parenting hubs operated in cities such as Bucharest, Braşov, Cluj, Constanţa, Tulcea, and Vâlcea County, reaching nearly 400 children, 90 per cent of whom were Ukrainian. In Bucharest, UNICEF supported the School Inspectorate of the Municipality and the Education Desk at RomExpo to strengthen school enrolment. Over four dedicated sessions, 101 parents and 168 children received tailored guidance on the Romanian education system, leading to 48 Ukrainian children enrolling in preparatory grade by the end of the month.

One-Stop Educational and Social Services

Roma Education Fund Romania expanded access to education and support services through its One-Stop-Shop Centre in Bucharest. With backing from the Council of Europe Development Bank, the centre provided Romanian language lessons, academic remediation in Ukrainian and mathematics, creative workshops, psychosocial counselling, and the distribution of 245 social vouchers. To mark International Children's Day, an inclusive celebration brought together 57 children and seven parents, reinforcing community bonds and a sense of belonging.

Education and Recreational Support at Community Level

Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Romania continued to deliver critical education support through its learning centres in Bucharest, Braşov, and Constanţa, where 277 children received after-school assistance. An additional 200 children participated in recreational activities at the Pipera Hub and RomExpo Community Centre playground. Ukrainian and Romanian teachers and psychologists facilitated language support and counselling, while online Romanian classes, supported by Entreculturas and Caritas, reached 500 children. Early childhood learning activities for 60 preschoolers also continued in Bucharest under the One Proposal project, enhancing school readiness and social integration.

Comprehensive Educational Support Across the Country

Save the Children Romania provided comprehensive educational support for children from refugee and vulnerable host communities in Bucharest, Baia Mare, Galaţi, Iaşi, and Suceava. In May alone, 253 school-age children and 58 preschoolers received afterschool and remedial education, while 209 participated in Romanian language classes and 129 attended English courses. The organization also played a key role in facilitating school enrolment, helping refugee children integrate into the national education system.

A Collective Commitment to Inclusive Education

Together, these coordinated efforts reflect the commitment of RRP partners to build a supportive, equitable, and accessible educational environment, one that recognizes the diverse needs of refugee children and supports their full inclusion in Romania's education system.

For the latest progress against the sector indicators please consult this [dashboard](#).

Health and nutrition

Working Group co-chairs

WHO

Romanian Red Cross

Appealing sectoral partners

- Asociația Moșelor Independente
- Ateliere Fără Frontiere
- City Makers
- East European Institute for Reproductive Health (EIRH)
- FONSS
- IOM
- Metropolitan Agency for Durable Development Brasov
- Migrant Integration Centre Brasov
- Necuvinte
- Novapolis
- PATRIR
- ParentIS
- Plan International
- RomaJust
- SECS
- SERA
- UNFPA
- UNICEF
- WHO
- YMCA Romania

Scaling Up Access to Primary Healthcare Services

In May, Refugee Response Plan (RRP) partners continued to strengthen healthcare access for Ukrainian refugees across Romania through coordinated service delivery, community outreach, and targeted support mechanisms. These efforts focused on bridging language and administrative barriers, enhancing service navigation, and promoting preventive care.

Supporting Primary Healthcare Through Local Clinics

WHO Romania played a central role in facilitating access to primary healthcare by sustaining its stipend programme for administrative support in selected family doctor clinics across Bucharest, Braşov, Cluj, Constanța, Galați, Sibiu, and Suceava. Through these WHO-supported clinics, 455 medical consultations were conducted in May, including 52 essential childhood vaccinations. To overcome language-related challenges, WHO maintained its dedicated telephone interpretation hotline, which facilitated 60 sessions during the reporting period, five of which supported emergency medical interventions.

Bridging Access Gaps Through Cultural Mediation

WHO's cultural mediators continued to play a key role in strengthening health system navigation. In May, they provided one-on-one guidance to 57 Ukrainian refugees on accessing both primary and specialized healthcare services and assisted 35 individuals in scheduling medical appointments. In support of longer-term access strategies, WHO also conducted a mapping of pharmaceutical services in Bucharest, Braşov, and Timiș counties to improve visibility and availability of services for displaced communities

Strengthening Outreach Through Community Engagement

On 21 May, UNHCR organized a community mobilization meeting, bringing together refugee communities, healthcare providers, and the Constanța County National Health Insurance House (NHIH) to improve refugee access to available medical services. WHO provided essential information on access to emergency care, treatment for chronic conditions, and national vaccination programmes. Practical guidance was also offered on how to obtain a National Health Insurance Code (CID) and navigate the referral system for specialized care. WHO's cultural mediator highlighted the availability of interpretation services and other support mechanisms, while the Constanța NHIH committed to sharing an updated list of healthcare providers to further improve service delivery.

Promoting Health Through Community-Based Services

Complementing institutional efforts, the Romanian Red Cross sustained its support through a network of health promotion centres. In May alone, over 900 Ukrainian refugees benefited from services such as health education, preventive care, and medical referrals. These centres serve as vital access points for trusted health information and community-based assistance, particularly for refugees facing difficulties engaging with the formal healthcare system.

Together, these initiatives reflect a sustained commitment by health partners to deliver equitable, inclusive, and responsive healthcare to refugees in Romania. By combining administrative support, interpretation services, and community-level outreach, partners continue to reduce barriers and improve health outcomes for those affected by displacement.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

In May, partners under the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) continued to invest in mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services, responding to both immediate psychological needs and the longer-term well-being of Ukrainian refugees across Romania. These collective efforts addressed emotional resilience, trauma recovery, and community integration.

Strengthening Strategic Coordination and Mapping

WHO Romania took significant steps toward building a more coordinated MHPSS landscape by advancing its national mapping initiative. Led by WHO's national Mental Health Consultant, the initiative aims to identify available services, gaps in provision, existing training resources, and systemic funding challenges. These findings will inform future advocacy efforts targeting donors, national authorities, and coordination bodies to secure sustainable financing and improve service delivery.

Delivering Community-Based and Culturally Sensitive Support

At the community level, WHO's cultural mediators, trained in mental health support, provided both individual and group counselling sessions, as well as art therapy workshops tailored to the needs of Ukrainian refugees. In May, these services reached 253 beneficiaries. By using culturally responsive approaches, these interventions contributed to stress reduction, coping strategies, and enhanced emotional resilience.

Supporting Children and Families Through Holistic Programming

Save the Children Romania continued to offer wide-ranging MHPSS services across Bucharest, Baia Mare, Galați, Iași, and Suceava. Activities were designed to promote emotional healing, strengthen peer relationships, and support social inclusion. A total of 879 children and 283 adults participated in various sessions throughout the month. More individualized psychological support was provided to 13 children and 46 adults through one-on-one counselling. Complementary programming included Teenagers Club and Children's Club activities, expressive arts workshops, and antibullying campaigns. Thematic sessions, attended by over 300 participants, helped foster emotional development, group cohesion, and a sense of belonging.

Scaling Up Outreach and Group Support

The Romanian Red Cross expanded its mental health outreach through both individual and group-based approaches. In May, 65 individual counselling sessions and 171 group therapy sessions were conducted for Ukrainian refugees. These services were bolstered by psychosocial activities including recreational events, teamwork exercises, and resilience-building workshops targeting all age groups. These efforts helped reduce isolation and encourage supportive social connections within refugee communities.

Sustained Commitment to Psychological Well-Being

Across the country, MHPSS partners continued to provide vital support for refugees navigating the stress and uncertainty of displacement. Through coordinated programming, cultural sensitivity, and sustained outreach, these efforts are ensuring that mental health care remains a core component of the refugee response in Romania.

For the latest progress against the sector indicators please consult the [Health dashboard](#) and the [MHPSS dashboard](#).

Basic Needs and Cash

Working Group co-chairs

Save the Children Romania
Romanian Red Cross
UNHCR

Appealing sectoral partners

- ADPARE
- ASSOC
- HIAS
- Habitat for Humanity Romania
- IOM
- JRS Romania
- Necuvinte
- Novapolis
- RomaJust
- Save the Children Romania
- Sensiblu Foundation
- SERA
- Sibiu Community Foundation
- UNHCR

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

In May, partners under the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) continued to provide critical financial and material assistance to refugees and vulnerable host community members across Romania, helping to address basic needs and promote stability.

Cash and Voucher Assistance for Vulnerable Families

Save the Children Romania remained a key actor in delivering cash and voucher support, reaching 1,407 individuals—comprising 596 adults and 811 children—in Bucharest, Baia Mare, Galați, Iași, and Suceava. Each beneficiary received a social voucher valued at RON 720 (approximately USD 165). The assistance targeted families identified through case management as having the highest vulnerabilities, including those at risk of dropping out of school or losing access to healthcare. This intervention aims to support basic needs and reduce protection risks.

Rental and One-Off Cash Support to Promote Stability

In Iași, the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Romania extended its rental support programme to an additional seven individuals (five adults and two children), ensuring continued access to stable shelter. In parallel, one-off cash support of RON 1,000 was provided to 21 refugees and migrants in vulnerable situations, helping to cover essential needs such as food, clothing, and transportation. This initiative complements broader integration and self-reliance programming and is expected to continue, depending on funding availability.

Distributions of Core Relief Items and Non-Food Supplies

Material assistance scaled up significantly in May. UNHCR and the Red Cross organized a large-scale distribution at RomExpo, reaching 2,330 individuals—including 1,421 children—with key relief items. Beneficiaries included refugees, evacuees from Gaza, and Romanian families in need. Essential items distributed included quilts, hygiene products, clothing, and baby care supplies. In total, over 305,000 core relief items have been mobilized to support individuals across Romania.

Separately, Save the Children Romania distributed 964 non-food items to 964 individuals (367 adults and 597 children) in Suceava, including clothes, footwear, diapers, and baby hygiene kits. From January to May 2025, the organization has assisted 2,456 individuals with 5,184 items.

Throughout May, the Romanian Red Cross also distributed core relief items to 2,582 individuals across 12 counties, including Bucharest, Bihor, Brăila, Constanța, Galați, Iași, Maramureș, Sibiu, Suceava, Timiș, and Tulcea. Supplies included mattresses, diapers, and children's clothing, provided in coordination with local authorities and NGOs. By the end of May, the Red Cross had reached 32,570 individuals with 88,191 items since the beginning of the year.

Meeting Urgent Needs and Preserving Dignity

These targeted material and financial interventions reflect the continued efforts of RRP partners to meet urgent humanitarian needs while supporting inclusion and self-reliance. Through close collaboration with local actors, organizations are ensuring that assistance reaches the most vulnerable and contributes to a dignified life for all displaced persons in Romania.

For the latest progress against the sector indicators please consult this [dashboard](#).

Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion

Working Group co-chairs

World Vision Romania

UNHCR

Appealing sectoral partners

- ADPARE
- Ateliere Fără Frontiere
- City Makers
- Civic Rădăuți Association
- Commit Global
- Drumul Vieții
- HIAS
- Help Ukrainians
- IOM
- JRS Romania
- MALVA
- Metropolitan Agency for Durable Development Brasov
- Migrant Integration Centre Brasov
- National Youth Foundation
- Novapolis
- Plan International
- Project Voyager
- Roma Education Fund
- Sibiu Community Foundation
- UNHCR
- UNICEF
- World Vision Romania
- YMCA Romania

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

Throughout May, RRP partners continued to expand access to livelihoods, job opportunities, and skill-building support for refugees across Romania. These efforts reflect a growing commitment to fostering self-reliance and sustainable socio-economic integration.

Job Fairs Facilitate Direct Employment Opportunities

UNHCR, together with its partners Project Voyager and World Vision Romania, actively supported refugee participation in a series of job fairs organized by the National Employment Agency (ANOFM) in Bucharest, Braşov, Constanţa, Cluj, Iaşi, Ilfov, and Suceava counties. Refugees benefited from tailored counselling, employer engagement support, interpretation services, and referrals to additional services. Over 1,800 companies participated in these fairs, showcasing employment opportunities across sectors.

Building on these efforts, UNHCR and Project Voyager hosted a dedicated job fair at the RomExpo Community Centre in Bucharest on 30 May. The event featured 15 employers and over 60 job openings—mainly in hospitality and services—and drew more than 150 participants, including both refugees and members of the host community. Participants accessed legal and career counselling and joined thematic workshops to strengthen job-readiness and professional confidence.

Entrepreneurship Pathways Take Shape

In a push to foster refugee-led business development, UNHCR and World Vision Romania launched a pre-registration campaign for a new entrepreneurship training programme. The initiative generated significant interest, with 336 refugees signing up. The programme will feature

six online sessions, culminating in the development of individual business plans. Ten participants with the strongest proposals will receive UNHCR-funded grants to help bring their ideas to life.

Language and Integration Support Enhance Employability

To complement employment initiatives, Save the Children Romania focused on reducing language and integration barriers for jobseekers. In May, the organization provided Romanian language instruction to 199 Ukrainian adults and English language classes to 84 others. In addition, 29 refugees participated in group information sessions offering guidance on accessing jobs and public services.

Recognizing the connection between economic inclusion and family stability, Save the Children also provided childcare and educational support, helping parents to fully engage in job-seeking activities and work-readiness programmes.

An Integrated Approach to Economic Inclusion

Together, these efforts form a comprehensive approach to livelihoods support—linking employment, training, entrepreneurship, and wraparound services. By promoting refugee self-reliance and inclusion, RRP partners are helping to lay the foundation for long-term economic stability in Romania.

For the latest progress against the sector indicators please consult this [dashboard](#).

Olga's Story – My dream: to have my own business

My name is Olga, and I come from Odesa, Ukraine. I arrived in Romania in August 2022 with my daughter, leaving behind an entire life and a career in the medical field. In Odesa, I worked as a laboratory doctor at Synevo, but the war forced us to leave and search for a new beginning.

Since arriving in Romania, I have always tried to be helpful to my community. I speak Romanian, so I started as a volunteer, assisting as a translator and interpreter for refugees during medical visits. Soon, I turned this activity into a job, collaborating with various organizations to help people like me access essential services.

However, my dream was to have my own business. I wanted to build something stable for myself and my daughter. When I found out about the business training sessions organized through the Metropolitan Agency for Durable Development Brasov's KATYA hub socio-economic inclusion project for refugees, I knew I had to participate. The courses were well-structured and helped me understand the legal, fiscal, and administrative aspects necessary to start a business in Romania. They inspired me to develop my idea, believe in it, and take the necessary steps to turn it into reality.

After completing the training, I participated in the business idea competition. I presented my plan for a beauty salon specializing in cosmetology and body massage, a field I have always loved and wanted to improve my skills in. When I found out that I was one of the winners and would receive a grant of RON 27,900 (US\$ 6,492) to start my business, I felt that, at last, I had found the stability I was searching for.

Now, my business is a reality. I have my own place where I can provide beauty and relaxation services and contribute, in my own way, to the well-being of those around me. I am deeply grateful for this



opportunity and for all the support provided through this project. The training sessions not only gave me essential knowledge but also motivated me to move forward and dare to build something new in a country that welcomed me with open arms.

Thank you to everyone involved. Through the project, the Metropolitan Agency for Durable Development Brasov's KATYA hub has given me the chance to rebuild my future!

Cross-Cutting Priorities

Trafficking in Persons

Capacity Building to Strengthen National Trafficking Response

In May, Romanian authorities and international partners intensified their efforts to combat trafficking in persons and strengthen child protection through targeted trainings and inter-agency collaboration. From 20 to 27 May, the National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons (ANITP), with the support of IOM, organized two specialized training sessions in Braşov and Iaşi. The sessions focused on the effective use of the national database for monitoring and evaluating victims of trafficking. Participants included representatives from ANITP's regional centres and the Romanian Police's Brigade for Combatting Organized Crime (BCCO). The training aimed to improve data accuracy and streamline reporting procedures—critical elements of Romania's new National Strategy Against Trafficking in Persons (2024–2028).

Interdisciplinary Workshop on Trauma-Informed Child Protection

Earlier in the month, from 7 to 9 May, NGO eLiberare and Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) co-hosted a comprehensive workshop entitled “Building an Interdisciplinary Team Around a Child: Trauma-Centred Interagency Working Modalities in Child Protection & Safeguarding.” The event brought together professionals from a wide range of institutions, including County-level General Directorates of Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPCs), ANITP and its regional branches, the General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police, and the General Inspectorate for Immigration.

International organizations and NGOs active in child protection and anti-trafficking—such as UNHCR, AidRom, eLiberare, the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR), JRS Romania, Save the Children Romania, and Terre des Hommes—also contributed their expertise.

Led by experienced international trainers, the workshop tackled a wide range of themes relevant to refugee and migrant children affected by conflict and displacement. Topics included trauma-informed collaboration between agencies, combating human trafficking and organized crime in conflict settings, war crimes against children in the context of the Ukraine crisis, child-sensitive communication and interviewing, the psychology of trauma in children, and the role of transitional justice using open-source intelligence tools.

A Coordinated, Child-Centred Protection Framework

These initiatives reflect the sustained efforts of Romanian institutions and humanitarian actors to build a robust, trauma-sensitive protection environment. By investing in interagency coordination and capacity-building, the Anti-Trafficking Task Team continues to reinforce national efforts to prevent exploitation and safeguard vulnerable children at risk of trafficking.

Protection and Inclusion Challenges for Refugees: Advocacy and Action Needed

Challenges in accessing Social Assistance and Health Services

Accessing social assistance remains a complex and often frustrating process for temporary protection holders, especially in smaller communities. In Piatra Neamț, UNHCR and the Department of Social Assistance (DAS) organized an information session to inform refugees about the social protection benefits available to them. Participants voiced several concerns, most notably, the difficulty in registering with local family doctors. This barrier frequently delays access to specialist healthcare and social benefits, with a particularly severe impact on persons with disabilities.

Another key issue raised was the requirement for a current address to be listed on temporary protection documents to qualify for programs like child allowances. Persons with disabilities face even more administrative challenges: they are required to renew both their residence permits and disability certificates every six months—despite no legal provision mandating this, creating unnecessary delays in accessing critical support services. The session provided a valuable opportunity for refugees to receive guidance and clarity, helping them better navigate Romania's social support system.

Across several locations, temporary protection holders seeking to apply for the Minimum Inclusion Income (VMI) have reportedly encountered bureaucratic hurdles, most notably, the requirement to submit authorized translations of civil status documents. While not explicitly mandated by law, this practice has been reported by partners in multiple areas and imposes a significant financial burden on vulnerable applicants. To help address these challenges, organizations such as CNRR and UNHCR continue to provide interpretation services, legal counselling, and accessible information about the VMI application process. Their support plays a crucial role in easing administrative barriers and improving access to essential social assistance.

Obstacles to Inclusion in Education

Meaningful inclusion of refugee children in Romanian schools remains a challenge. Language barriers and the lack of intercultural support limit children's ability to fully participate in classroom activities and build peer relationships, increasing the risk of social isolation. There is a pressing need to strengthen institutional support and promote initiatives that foster both academic engagement and community integration.

Limited Access to Language Training for Employment

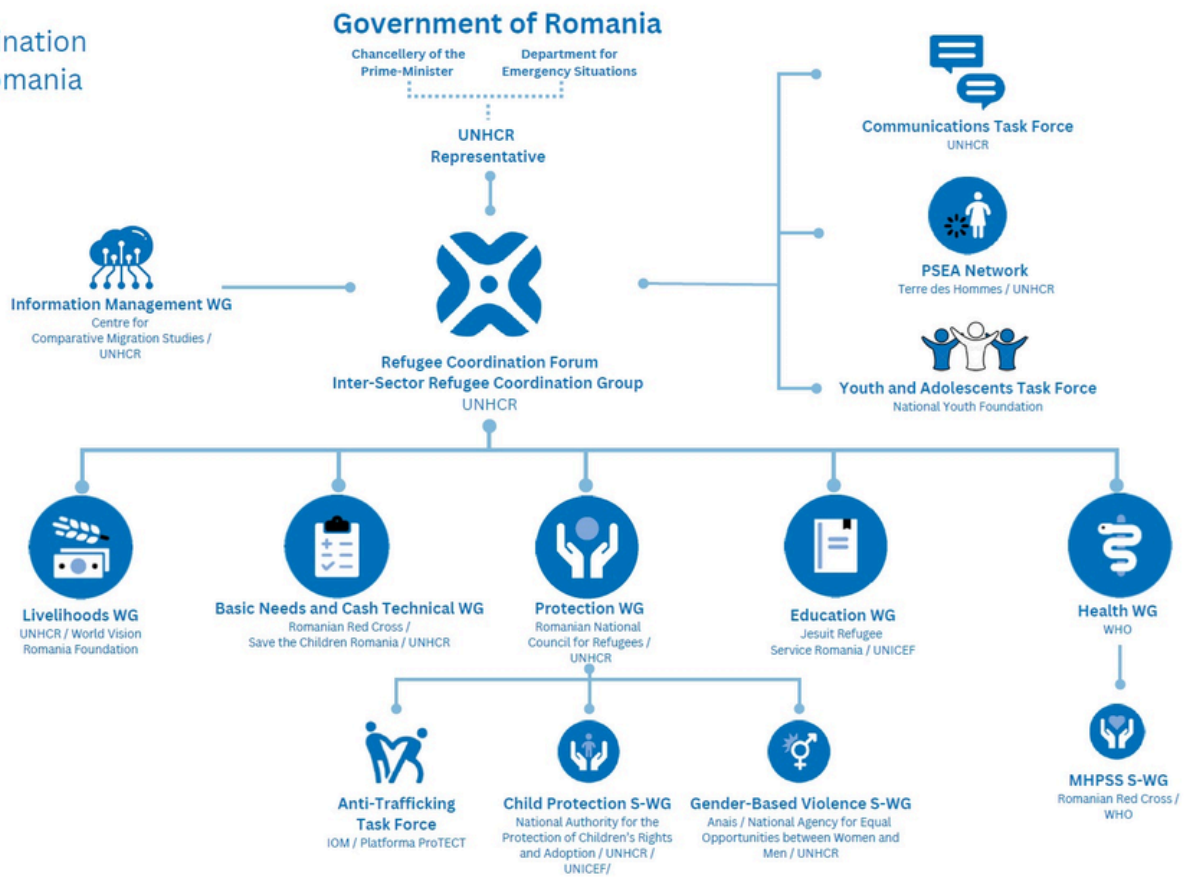
Language proficiency remains a key enabler for employment and integration, yet limited funding has significantly constrained access to Romanian language classes. In Constanța, under the Livelihood and Economic Inclusion for Refugees in Romania project, World Vision Romania identified a high unmet demand for Romanian language courses: of 255 participants enrolled in the project, approximately 150–160 expressed a desire to improve their language skills but were unable to access courses. In response, World Vision is working with local actors—including JRS, the Civic Resource Centre, Novapolis, the School Inspectorate, and AJOFM, to expand referral pathways and increase access to free language training.

Housing Insecurity Amid Funding Constraints

The ongoing funding crisis is severely limiting partners' capacity to provide accommodation and basic needs assistance to refugees, leaving many at risk of homelessness. Some refugees have reportedly chosen to return to Ukraine due to the lack of safe, sustainable housing options in Romania. Basic Needs partners continue to advocate with national and local authorities for expanded access to public housing programs and the continued operation of collective accommodation centres. These measures are essential to ensuring housing stability and preventing further displacement of vulnerable individuals and families.

Working in partnership

Refugee Coordination Structure in Romania



In 2025, the Inter-Agency platform comprises of the following 42 appealing partners implementing humanitarian activities in Romania for refugees from Ukraine:

[ADPARE](#) | [Asociația Moșelor Independente](#) | [ASSOC](#) | [Association of Ukrainian Teachers in Romania](#) | [Ateliere Fără Frontiere](#) | [City Makers](#) | [Civic Rădăuți Association](#) | [CNRR](#) | [Commit Global](#) | [Drumul Vieții](#) | [EHIRH](#) | [FONSS](#) | [Habitat for Humanity](#) | [Help Ukrainians](#) | [HIAS](#) | [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](#)

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LINKS

[Regional data portal](#)
[Romania Page](#)
[Ukraine Situation RRP](#)
[Refugee Funding Tracker](#)
[Romania Refugee Response Plan - Results](#)