ROMANIA

Weekly Update #188 **23 March 2026**

Key figures

203,684 refugees
obtained temporary protection and refugee status in Romania (as of end January 2026).

47,050 refugees
supported with core relief items in 2025 and 2026.

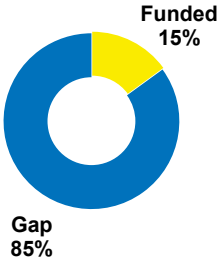
14,003 refugees
provided with protection counselling services and legal support in 2025 and 2026.

5,784 refugees
supported with livelihood and employment services in 2025 and 2026.

"For me, it is very important to feel that we are not alone here. At UNHCR's Romanian Speaking Club, we don't just learn the language - we communicate, share experiences, and support each other. These moments help me feel more confident and connected." Tetiana, a 51-year-old refugee from Odesa, Ukraine living in Bucharest, Romania.

UNHCR Romania Funding Situation

As of 28 February 2026
$23.4 million
UNHCR's funding requirements 2026



Highlights

On 18 March, Member of the Parliament of Ukraine, Ms. Yulia Sirko, visited UNHCR's Community Centre at RomExpo. During the visit, she observed how UNHCR, in close collaboration with public institutions, international partners, and non-profit organizations, is supporting refugees from Ukraine. Following a tour of the Centre and discussions with the partners providing on-site assistance, Ms. Sirko met with a group of refugees and discussed services provided by Ukrainian authorities, communication with the community, access to education, and temporary protection. She expressed appreciation for the support extended to Ukrainian nationals. Together with its partners, UNHCR continues to provide refugees with a safe and welcoming environment where they can quickly find the help they need to begin integrating into the host community - an important step toward achieving independence and well-being.

On 18 March, Member of the Parliament of Ukraine, Ms. Yulia Sirko, visited UNHCR's Community Centre at RomExpo. *Photo: UNHCR*

On 18 March, the Inter-Agency platform, led by UNHCR, published its end-of-year report on implementation of the 2025 Refugee Response Plan (RRP) in Romania. Severe underfunding significantly constrained the 2025 RRP, limiting partners' ability to reach those in need. With only 31 per cent of required funding secured, just 73,000 of the 148,000 expected RRP beneficiaries were reached, forcing a focus on life-saving assistance while reducing overall coverage. Key services were suspended or closed, including community centres providing protection, protection from violence against women and children, and emergency shelter, leaving many vulnerable individuals without specialized care. Funding gaps also reduced access to education, livelihoods, and social cohesion activities. Despite facing severe funding difficulties, RRP partners nonetheless delivered critical support, including protection services to over 40,000 people, nearly 97,000 health consultations, and livelihoods and economic inclusion assistance to 15,000 refugees, while supporting access to national systems, and pathways toward self-reliance.

Response and Advocacy

During the past week, UNHCR partner the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR) continued to support Temporary Protection holders in accessing medical and social services, while identifying persistent challenges. CNRR supported refugees in accessing healthcare, including registration with family doctors and the National Health Insurance system, and assisted in drafting formal requests to relevant authorities to address administrative barriers. CNRR also offered legal counselling in cases related to Temporary Protection eligibility, providing practical guidance on access to assistance such as housing support, including resolving difficulties with administration and banking. Since the beginning of 2025, UNHCR and its partners have provided protection counselling services and legal support to over 14,000 refugees.

On 18 March, UNHCR delivered an online pre-deployment briefing for officers of the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders (Frontex) assigned to countries in the region, including Romania. The session provided an overview of UNHCR's mandate, alongside a refresher on international protection and the relevant legal framework, including the principle of non-refoulement. It also outlined UNHCR's presence and activities in Romania. UNHCR shared its views on the refugee operational context, including the response to the situation in Ukraine, mixed migration and asylum trends, and issues relating to statelessness. The briefing aimed to enhance officers' understanding of UNHCR's role in the broader operational environment in Romania, facilitate referrals through the sharing of UNHCR contact details, and further strengthen cooperation between UNHCR and Frontex.

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 2025 and 2026 programmes. For more details: Romania Funding Update – 2026