Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

August 2025

Inter-Agency Newsletter

REFUGEE COORDINATION FORUM | ROMANIA

188,208 Temporary Protection holders in Romania (as of 31 July 2025)

9.77 million border crossings from Ukraine and Moldova since February 2022

1 million third-country nationals arrived in Romania from Ukraine and Moldova

8.7 million Ukrainians arrived in Romania from Ukraine and Moldova

Current funding level*

42
TOTAL APPEALING PARTNERS

$82.8 M
TOTAL APPEALED BUDGET

20%

$16.4M
TOTAL FUNDING RECEIVED

$66.4M
TOTAL FUNDING GAP

	Received	Appealed
Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion	$3.4M	$16.5 M
Protection	$5.6M	$16.2M
Basic Needs	$2M	$15.7M
Public Health and MHPSS	$1.6M	$10.1M
Education	$1.1M	$9.3M
Child Protection	$1M	$8.7M
Gender-based Violence	$0.8M	$6.3M

*as of end of Q2

2025 Achievements

Support for Public Authorities

1,272 personnel trained

Strengthening Social Cohesion

1,813 participants from both refugee and host communities in initiatives and events

Romanian courses for integration

3,321 people provided with Romanian languages classes

People reached by sector

- Protection **39,266**
- Education **9,118**
- Basic Needs **35,175**
- Child Protection **10,959**
- Health and Nutrition **81,381**
- Cash Assistance **16,757**
- Gender-Based Violence **9,816**
- MHPSS **11,090**
- Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion **6,899**

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.

Since 24 February 2022, more than 5 million people from Ukraine have sought refuge across Europe. As of 31 July 2025, the Romanian General Inspectorate for Immigration (GII) reported that 190,491 Ukrainians and third country nationals obtained temporary protection in Romania, which provides access to healthcare, education, and the labour market.

Socio-Economic Insights Survey 2025

RRP partners, the Center for Comparative Migration Studies (CSCM) and UNHCR are preparing to launch the 2025 Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS) to better understand the evolving needs of refugees from Ukraine in Romania and changes in living conditions compared to 2024.

The yearly survey, scheduled to take place in September and October 2025, will collect data to inform future support programs and measure progress against the RRP outcomes. A sign-up form inviting refugees to participate is being shared on social media by CSCM and UNHCR to ensure wide reach and a representative sample. Training for the survey teams will be held online in September, and the results will be published in a final report later this year.

Together in the Park: Music Without Borders

On 30 August, UNHCR in collaboration with the NGO Green Revolution (Roaba de Cultură) and 8 partners of the Refugee Response Plan (RRP), held the third edition of “Together in the Park” in Herăstrău Park celebrating social cohesion, multiculturalism, and the power of community.

The open-air event on the theme “Art without Borders – bringing communities together through arts and culture”, featured cultural and arts workshops for children and youth and photo exhibitions. The event successfully brought refugees, migrants, and the host community together in a playful manner forging bridges between the communities in Bucharest.

The fourth and final edition in the series of “Together in the Park” events supported by UNHCR will take place on 28 September.

Spotlight story - RRP partner Save the Children Romania

As the new school year begins, Save the Children Romania continues to prioritize access to quality education for refugee children from Ukraine and for vulnerable children across the country. Since the escalation of the crisis in 2022, thousands of Ukrainian children have relied on Save the Children's support to continue their education process in Romania. Over 368,200 people have received tailored support at Integrated Hubs and Counselling Hubs during the three years of the Ukrainian Response, including more than 185,100 children.

Save the Children's activities address both immediate educational needs and long-term inclusion, carefully integrated into Counselling Hubs. In 2025, as more families consider building a new life in Romania, over 7,923 people have been assisted to overcome barriers to integration, of whom 3,694 are children. As the new school year approaches, it is essential to ensure that no child is left behind.

In August 2025 alone, more than 260 children in Bucharest, Baia Mare, Galați, Iași, and Suceava took part in summer school activities, including Romanian and English language lessons and homework support. These initiatives help children not only catch up academically but also gain the language and social skills needed to feel included in Romanian classrooms. "I'm learning new words every day," M.B said. "Now I can understand what the other kids say, and I can talk to them too. I want to go to a Romanian school and become a teacher one day."

Beyond lessons, Save the Children helps families overcome the hidden costs of education. A recent national study revealed the financial burden that extracurricular expenses place on parents in Romania. To reduce this barrier for Ukrainian children, nearly 500 fully equipped school backpacks are being distributed for the beginning of the school year.

Save the Children's initiatives such as the "Get Ready for School" activities, Romanian language learning, and safe spaces enable children to adapt, make friends, and regain a sense of normality. Education is more than classes - it is a lifeline for displaced children to rebuild their futures.

Protection

Working Group co-chairs

Romanian National Council for Refugees
UNHCR

Appealing sectoral partners

- ADPARE
- 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
- 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

Social Support and Assistance

In Constanța, the General Directorate of Social Assistance (DGAS) introduced a new measure enabling Ukrainian refugees to present electricity bill payment receipts for energy bill vouchers, even when utility contracts are not registered in their name. This step is especially valuable for beneficiaries of the Minimum Inclusion Income (VMI). By late August, DGAS had actively encouraged applicants to provide proof of payments and collaborated with the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR) and IOM to ensure that refugees were informed of the requirement.

Social Support and Assistance

Save the Children Romania continued its extensive support to refugees, reaching 942 adults, mostly women from Ukraine, through Counselling Hubs and Integration Centres across Bucharest, Baia Mare, Galați, Iași, and Suceava. Services ranged from legal and informational counselling to practical assistance in accessing social benefits such as the minimum inclusion wage and disability allowance. The organisation also played a crucial role in facilitating employment opportunities and connecting refugees with healthcare services, including registration with family doctors, support during medical appointments, and translation assistance. Moreover, Save the Children helped individuals address immediate basic needs, ensuring more holistic support for integration.

For the latest progress against the sector indicators please consult this dashboard.

Advocacy and Policy Dialogue

Following the joint letter submitted by a coalition of Romanian NGOs within the Protection Working Group to the Ministry of Internal Affairs on Romania's national plan for implementing the European Pact on Asylum and Migration, several important steps have been taken. The NGOs reiterated their recommendations, which include improving access to information and counselling for people in need of protection, strengthening safeguards for vulnerable groups, and building capacity within the asylum system.

In response, the General Inspectorate of the Border Police convened a meeting with the signatory NGOs to discuss these proposals, while the General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI) issued a written reply. Additionally, the National Authority for Children's Rights Protection and Adoption (ANPDCA) hosted an online coordination meeting to review practical steps for implementation. An invitation was also extended to the Ombudsman to explore their role in the independent monitoring mechanism on fundamental rights under the Pact.

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

Strengthening Child Protection Systems

UNICEF continued to play a key role in supporting child protection efforts for evacuated and displaced children. Working closely with the National Authority for the Protection of Child Rights and Adoption (NAPCRA) and county-level child protection directorates (DGASPCs), UNICEF provided technical assistance to improve service quality and coordination, including engagement with relevant Ukrainian stakeholders.

Cross-Border Coordination for Child Protection

Romanian and Ukrainian child protection authorities convened to strengthen cooperation on the continued protection of evacuated Ukrainian children.
The discussions focused on ensuring care continuity, clarifying legal procedures, addressing protection challenges, and supporting decision-making for young adults.
Both sides agreed on a series of action points, including reinforcing bilateral communication at national and regional levels, enhancing collaboration on long-term solutions for children hosted in Prahova county, and establishing a formal cooperation mechanism between the General Directorates of Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPC) Prahova and the Odesa Regional Administration.

Support for Evacuated Children

Throughout August, UNICEF continued monitoring evacuated children and provided technical assistance to the National Authority for the Protection of Child's Rights and Adoption (NAPCRA) and relevant DGASPCs. The aim was to improve service quality and strengthen coordination with national and Ukrainian counterparts. UNICEF also ensured direct support, including physiotherapy for five children with severe disabilities in Suceava, as well as mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and capacity-building activities for eight Ukrainian staff accompanying children in Prahova county.

Strengthening Resilience and Inclusion

World Vision Romania advanced its "Protection and socio-economic inclusion of refugees in Romania" project, reaching over 288 Ukrainian refugee children across Bucharest, Brașov (in partnership with the Metropolitan Agency for Sustainable Development – Brașov), Constanța, Iași and Suceava. Activities included weekly prevention sessions for children and adolescents, along with parental training to help families identify and respond to abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Children and parents benefitted from individual and group MHPSS sessions with Ukrainian-speaking psychologists, as well as case management, school enrolment support, and referrals to child protection authorities when necessary. These activities not only promoted emotional regulation and positive parenting but also fostered greater resilience, social connectedness, and trust in protective systems.

World Vision's case management teams further provided tailored support to help refugee families access essential services. This included securing disability entitlements for children in Constanța, protection counselling in Bucharest, Brașov and Constanța, and guidance for registering with family doctors or enrolling in schools and kindergartens. Teams also assisted families with child allowance applications, referrals to specialised services in Iași and Suceava, and helped address administrative delays in health and social protection, ensuring safer and more stable care environments.

Local and Mobile Services

Save the Children Romania supported 604 children during August through information, counselling and case management services delivered in Bucharest, Baia Mare, Galați, Iași and Suceava. The organisation developed intervention plans for vulnerable children, provided social support, and delivered parenting sessions using the Safe Families methodology to prevent abuse and neglect. Mobile teams worked in collaboration with local authorities in Maramureș, Iași and Suceava counties, bringing child protection activities closer to communities in need.

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

Strengthening Access to Protection Services

On 19 August, the National Agency for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men (ANES) shared an announcement via UNHCR's Telegram channel, reaching almost 6,000 viewers. The message provided refugees with clear information on how to report cases through ANES's national hotline, a confidential channel designed to protect survivors of domestic violence and gender-based discrimination. As ANES continues to champion equal opportunities for women and men, this outreach ensured that refugees were aware of their rights and the specialised protection services available to them.

Empowering Women through Community Engagement

At UNHCR's Community Centre at Romexpo, the Women's Club was formally launched on 7 August. The initiative aims to strengthen women's well-being, enhance protection, and improve access to essential services. During its inaugural session, participants built confidence by practising English communication skills, focusing on vocabulary linked to equality, protection, and the prevention of gender-based violence. The session also provided an opportunity for refugee women to deepen their understanding of their rights and the range of support available to them.

Psychosocial Support and Resilience Building

In August, the Dr. Max Foundation announced that its partnership with UNHCR will come to an end in September. While the news raised concerns among refugees about the loss of a safe, supportive space, many also expressed gratitude for the coping strategies and sense of community they had gained.

Throughout the month, the Foundation's activities continued to offer meaningful support. Around 170 Ukrainian refugees, including adults and children, participated in 22 group activities held in Bucharest, Constanța, and Suceava. In addition, 14 people received one-on-one counselling, with two cases requiring ongoing management. In total, 40 counselling sessions were delivered, amounting to more than 50 hours of dedicated psychosocial care. These activities provided a critical foundation of emotional support and resilience as the programme draws to a close.

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

School Enrolment and Access to Education

In August, significant efforts were made to support the enrolment of Ukrainian children in schools across Romania. In Bucharest, UNICEF provided dedicated assistance to the Municipal School Inspectorate (ISMB) and the Education Desk at RomExpo. Demand for places has risen sharply, with 311 requests for educational information and 209 school registration applications recorded during the month. Despite this, the shortage of places remains critical, particularly in the capital, where many schools are unable to accommodate the increasing numbers. In response, ISMB agreed to issue distribution decisions ahead of the new school year, enabling families to secure placements and take part in school opening celebrations, an important milestone for integration.

The Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Romania also played a vital role, providing counselling to parents on enrolment procedures and educational options in Constanța and Galați, and offering direct learning support for children at RomExpo and in its Bucharest venue. Similarly, the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR) worked closely with families from Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Cameroon, assisting with school and kindergarten enrolments. Their interventions proved essential in overcoming barriers such as incorrect document requests and initial school rejections. In several cases, ISMB had to intervene directly with schools to enforce children's right to education.

Complementary and Early Education Services

Alongside enrolment support, UNICEF strengthened its collaboration with national and local authorities, NGOs, and educational partners such as HOLTIS, JRS Romania, and Step-by-Step. A key achievement has been the continued operation of 16 early education centres - play, learning, and parenting hubs - serving around 350 children, most of them Ukrainian. These hubs focus on early literacy, numeracy, socio-emotional skills and language development, easing children's transition to primary education and fostering inclusion in host communities.

The Roma Education Fund Romania, through its One-Stop-Shop Centre in Bucharest funded by the Council of Europe Development Bank, also supported refugee children and families with language courses, remedial activities in mathematics and Ukrainian, and arts and crafts sessions. In August, 47 children and three parents benefitted, while 210 social vouchers were distributed to support families' needs.

Language Learning and Integration Activities

Language acquisition remained central to integration efforts. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported that since January 2025, 2,835 people, both adults and children, have participated in Romanian language courses across Bucharest, Brașov, and Cluj-Napoca. JRS Romania complemented this with daily Romanian courses delivered by teachers and volunteers, alongside intensive Romanian and English classes for more than 90 Ukrainian adults under a European Bank of Reconstruction and Development project.

Save the Children Romania also expanded language support, offering Romanian and English classes as part of its wider educational assistance. In August alone, 264 children across Bucharest, Baia Mare, Galați, Iași, and Suceava benefitted from its programmes, which included homework help, remedial activities, afterschool programmes, and direct support for school enrolment. To prepare children for the new academic year, Save the Children distributed 490 backpacks with school supplies and intensified Romanian lessons through its Get Ready for School Club.

Psychosocial Support and Holistic Services

Education was closely linked with psychosocial well-being. IOM combined language courses with Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), delivered in collaboration with Ukrainian psychologists. Activities included counselling sessions, art and theatre workshops, and trips outside Bucharest, reaching 57 unique child beneficiaries in August. IOM also supported Ukrainian staff accompanying 23 orphaned children, helping them adapt to Romanian legislation on child rights and build stress management skills. Additionally, young refugees were encouraged to take part in community life through an internship and volunteering scheme, which welcomed participants from Ukraine and Turkmenistan.

World Vision, Save the Children, and JRS further enhanced integration by pairing educational support with child protection and parental guidance, ensuring that children's learning was reinforced by safe and stable family environments.

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 Moașelor Independente
- Ateliere Fără Frontiere
- City Makers
- East European Institute for Reproductive Health (EEIRH)
- 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

Primary Healthcare Access and Vaccination Support

WHO Romania continues to ensure that Ukrainian refugees in Romania can access primary healthcare services through its support to family doctor surgeries in Brașov, Bucharest, Cluj, Constanța, Galați, Sibiu and Suceava. In August, supported doctors delivered 514 consultations, including 55 essential childhood vaccinations, while providing information on recommended vaccines to 155 Ukrainians.

The Romanian-Ukrainian telephone translation hotline, supported by WHO, remains a vital resource for medical and psychological consultations, handling 82 translation requests in August. In addition, WHO Romania's county coordinator for Brașov, Covasna, Timișoara and Sibiu promoted the hotline and collaborated with the Covasna Public Health Directorate to distribute vaccination awareness materials in Ukrainian and Romanian to family doctors, schools, and community health workers. In Constanța, WHO's cultural mediator offered personalised guidance to 82 Ukrainians, assisting them in accessing both primary and specialised care and scheduling medical appointments.

The Romanian Red Cross complements these efforts, providing Ukrainian refugees with free laboratory tests, primary and specialised medical consultations, and information on health services through its Health Promotion Centres. In August, 488 Ukrainian refugees benefited from these services, and 10 educational sessions covered first aid, healthy relationships, reproductive health, and nutrition.

Promoting Teen Health and Wellbeing

WHO Romania also engaged teenagers in “Dialogues about Health” sessions to promote healthy lifestyles, emotional wellbeing, and self-awareness. On 1 August, a bodybuilding coach guided 21 teenagers (7 girls and 14 boys) on nutrition, training, and the benefits of sport in building resilience. On 8 August, a Ukrainian music teacher led an interactive discussion for 15 participants on using music and voice to strengthen confidence and emotional expression. Finally, on 21 August, a Ukrainian dermatologist-venereologist facilitated an open dialogue for 15 participants (13 women, 2 men) on skin health, preventive care, and the importance of timely medical consultation, with a focus on vaccination for all ages. Across all sessions, teenagers actively engaged, asked questions, and practised new skills, reflecting the positive impact of these interactive health initiatives.

Community Health and Integration

Beyond clinical support, the Romanian Red Cross offers a broader network of community hubs in Bucharest and across its branches, providing education, recreation, and social cohesion activities for both Ukrainian refugees and host communities. All activities are free to attend and serve as spaces for mutual aid, integration, and community engagement, strengthening both health outcomes and social well-being.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

Fostering Resilience, Social Cohesion, and Youth Empowerment

Individual and Group Psychosocial Support

Throughout August, WHO Romania continued to provide targeted mental health support to Ukrainian refugees. Cultural mediators with mental health expertise delivered 91 individual and group psychosocial and art therapy sessions, reaching a total of 289 beneficiaries. These sessions offered tailored support to address the emotional impact of displacement and trauma, helping participants build coping strategies and resilience.

The Romanian Red Cross complemented these efforts through its national network of Health Promotion Centres, offering individual and group psychological counselling to the refugee community. In August, 305 Ukrainian refugees, 141 adults and 164 children, accessed these services, reflecting the growing mental health needs caused by uncertainty and the stresses of displacement.

Promoting Social Inclusion and Wellbeing

Save the Children focused on fostering positive relationships, inclusion, and overall well-being among children and adults in Bucharest, Baia Mare, Galați, Iași, and Suceava. Through expressive-creative activities, thematic workshops, social cohesion events, TeamUp initiatives, intercultural activities, leisure sessions, and anti-bullying programmes, the organisation supported both Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian participants.

In August, Save the Children delivered mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) activities to 484 Ukrainian and 30 non-Ukrainian children, alongside 235 Ukrainian and 13 non-Ukrainian adults. Individual psychological counselling was provided to seven Ukrainian children and 32 Ukrainian adults, while 68 adolescents participated in Teenagers Club and 16 children joined Children’s Club. These initiatives promoted social inclusion, respect, tolerance, and stronger peer relationships, reinforcing a sense of community for all participants.

Mental Health Awareness and Community Engagement

WHO Romania also engaged the wider public in mental health awareness through the ZidArt “Wall Being Festival” in Bacău at the beginning of September. Key messages were developed specifically to promote emotional wellbeing, resilience, and the importance of seeking support, leveraging the festival as a platform for broader public engagement.

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

Monitoring and Strengthening Accommodation Centres

In line with UNHCR's commitment to ensuring access to shelter and basic needs, a joint initiative with the Department for Emergency Situations (DSU) was launched to collect up-to-date information on the status and functionality of active accommodation centres across Romania. This effort aims to enhance preparedness for emergencies and improve the collective response capacity of partners addressing evolving humanitarian needs.

On 18 August, a joint monitoring visit took place at the DGASPC Sector 1 refugee accommodation centre in Bucharest, which currently provides temporary shelter to 20 Ukrainian refugees. The visit identified operational challenges including shortages of core relief items (CRIs) such as clothing and hygiene products, facility maintenance concerns, and reduced room capacity due to quarantine measures.

Distribution of Core Relief Items

UNHCR, in partnership with the General Directorate of Social Assistance of Bucharest Municipality (DGASMB) and local partners, including Asociatia Somaschi, Help Ukrainians, Asociatia Alături de Voi, Hospice Casa Speranței, Mureș Hub, Inimă de Copil, Sensiblu Foundation, and PATRIR continued widespread distributions of CRIs throughout August. Support reached approximately 2,600 people across Brașov, Bucharest, Galați, Iași, Maramureș, Mureș, Sibiu, and Suceava, reinforcing dignity and welfare for forcibly displaced persons.

Since the start of the response, UNHCR has distributed over 131,425 CRIs to around 40,493 beneficiaries, including Ukrainian refugees, vulnerable third-country nationals, and host community members.

Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance

The Basic Needs sector continued to provide essential support through cash assistance to vulnerable populations. The Romanian Red Cross delivered EUR 593,201 (USD 692,300) to 1,604 families (4,056 individuals), providing RON 720 (USD 164) per household. This programme strengthened resilience and allowed beneficiaries to prioritise their own essential needs.

UNHCR also provided cash assistance to 931 forcibly displaced persons from Ukraine with specific vulnerabilities. Between January and March, 740 individuals received one-time winter cash payments of RON 720 (USD 164) each. In May, 191 additional refugees benefited from the Cash for Refugees with Specific Needs programme, receiving RON 630 (USD 145) per person to support their basic needs and promote self-reliance. Mobile missions extended access to those in western Romania. In mid-August, second payments were issued to previous beneficiaries, and an additional 145 refugees with multiple specific needs identified in April are scheduled to receive two instalments.

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

Strengthening Labour Market Access

On 1 August, UNHCR convened an online meeting with representatives from the National Employment Agency (ANOFM) and RRP partner Project Voyager to discuss ways to enhance the socio-economic inclusion of forcibly displaced persons in Romania. The discussion focused on private sector engagement and the provision of Romanian language courses to support labour market integration.

So far this year, UNHCR has assisted 962 Ukrainian refugees with language training through an external service provider, equipping them with skills necessary for employment. Partners agreed to continue outreach for job fairs, webinars, employer guides, and interpretation support. However, the need for additional language courses remains a challenge due to funding gaps among both governmental and non-governmental actors, with priority locations identified for future interventions.

Labour Market Trends and Baseline Data

As part of UNHCR's Livelihoods Information System, World Vision Romania and Project Voyager collected baseline data from 176 refugees by the end of August. Findings indicate that 39 per cent of respondents are currently wage-employed, with 90 per cent of these holding permanent positions. Many have worked for over 12 months, while the second largest group report less than six months of employment.

Self-employment accounts for 38 per cent, with most businesses registered with the host government. Income and savings trends show moderate increases, and 31 per cent of respondents have bank accounts. These insights will inform programming by UNHCR, Project Voyager, and World Vision, guiding interventions to strengthen economic integration.

For the latest progress against the sector indicators please consult this dashboard.

Promoting Inclusive Workplaces

Project Voyager released a five-part video series, "Leading Across Cultures", in collaboration with Gallup-Certified Strengths Coach Mihaela Nica. The series offers practical guidance for employers and hiring professionals on creating inclusive workplaces, from welcoming new colleagues to addressing everyday biases and leveraging diverse perspectives. The videos were shared weekly on LinkedIn and YouTube, generating strong engagement, and were complemented by limited one-on-one coaching sessions.

Vocational Training and Entrepreneurship Support

World Vision Romania delivered vocational training, including six entrepreneurship workshops, and managed a competitive grant process for ten business start-ups, each receiving RON 30,000 (USD 6,900). Following verification and interviews, the successful enterprises are spread across six counties: Constanța (3), Bucharest (2), Cluj (2), Iași (1), Brașov (1), and Bihor (1). Entrepreneurs receive tailored support including registration guidance, mentoring, and business monitoring through December 2025, promoting sustainable self-employment opportunities.

Integrated Socio-Economic Support

Save the Children continued to strengthen socio-economic inclusion by combining Romanian language classes with counselling on labour market access. Additional support, including childcare, educational services, and English language classes, aims to reduce employment barriers for parents and promote long-term stability. In August, 127 Ukrainian adults participated in Romanian classes, while 39 attended English classes. This integrated approach enhances self-reliance and serves as a model for inclusive social and economic policy.

Mykhailo's Story – From Uncertainty to Opportunity

"My name is Mykhailo. My family and I arrived in Romania on 22 March 2022, after making one of the most difficult decisions of my life: leaving Ukraine to protect the safety and future of my children.
When we reached Brașov, we were filled with uncertainty. Yet from our very first days, we felt the warmth and support of the KATYA Hub of the Metropolitan Agency for Sustainable Development – Brașov. This community not only gave us a safe space but also guided us as we began to rebuild our lives.

In Ukraine, I worked in heating and water supply installations and nurtured a passion for beekeeping. Still, integrating into Romania's labour market was not easy. Language barriers and the complex process of having my skills recognized posed real challenges.

With the support of the KATYA Hub team, I enrolled in Romanian language courses, eventually achieving a B2 proficiency level. Beyond practical training, the support I received was moral and psychological - I always felt that someone stood beside us, ensuring we never felt alone. Looking back, I see how every gesture of help made a difference.

Business training sessions organized through the project were particularly inspiring. They encouraged me to imagine new possibilities, including starting my own business. This year, with guidance from entrepreneurship specialists, I have begun taking concrete steps toward that dream.

My family and I are deeply grateful to the KATYA Hub team and their partners. Their support has given us not only the tools to adapt, but also the hope and courage to look forward to a brighter future."

Cross-Cutting Priorities

Protection and Inclusion Challenges for Refugees: Advocacy and Action Needed

Persistent Delays in Social Assistance

Temporary protection holders continue to experience significant delays in receiving lump sum payments under the government programme. Some individuals who submitted their documents nine months ago are still awaiting disbursement. UNHCR, CNRR, and partner organisations regularly receive inquiries on this issue, underscoring ongoing financial needs and vulnerabilities among the refugee population.

Uncertainty About Future Status

Refugees have increasingly raised questions about their legal and protection status as the conflict in Ukraine evolves. Recent political developments and ongoing debates regarding the resolution of the war have generated uncertainty about future arrangements for Ukrainian citizens in Romania, leaving many seeking guidance on their rights and long-term prospects.

Administrative and Institutional Challenges

Several administrative inconsistencies continue to affect refugees' access to services:

- In Suceava, the National Tax Administration Agency (ANAF) announced that it will no longer issue tax identification numbers to temporary protection holders who already possess a Romanian personal identification number. CNRR submitted a formal request for clarification to assess the impact.
- Delays and repeated submissions of child-allowance applications have occurred due to varying institutional practices, such as refusal to register applications because of shortened addresses on temporary protection permits. While World Vision and the National Agency for Payments and Social Inspection (AJPIS) have provided clarifications, such inconsistencies continue to create stress for refugee families.
- The phased closure of World Vision child protection operations in Iași and Suceava, resulting from reduced UNHCR funding, has increased caseloads for local authorities and NGOs, stretching local protection capacities.

Education and Integration Challenges

The start of the new academic year has highlighted multiple integration challenges for refugee children:

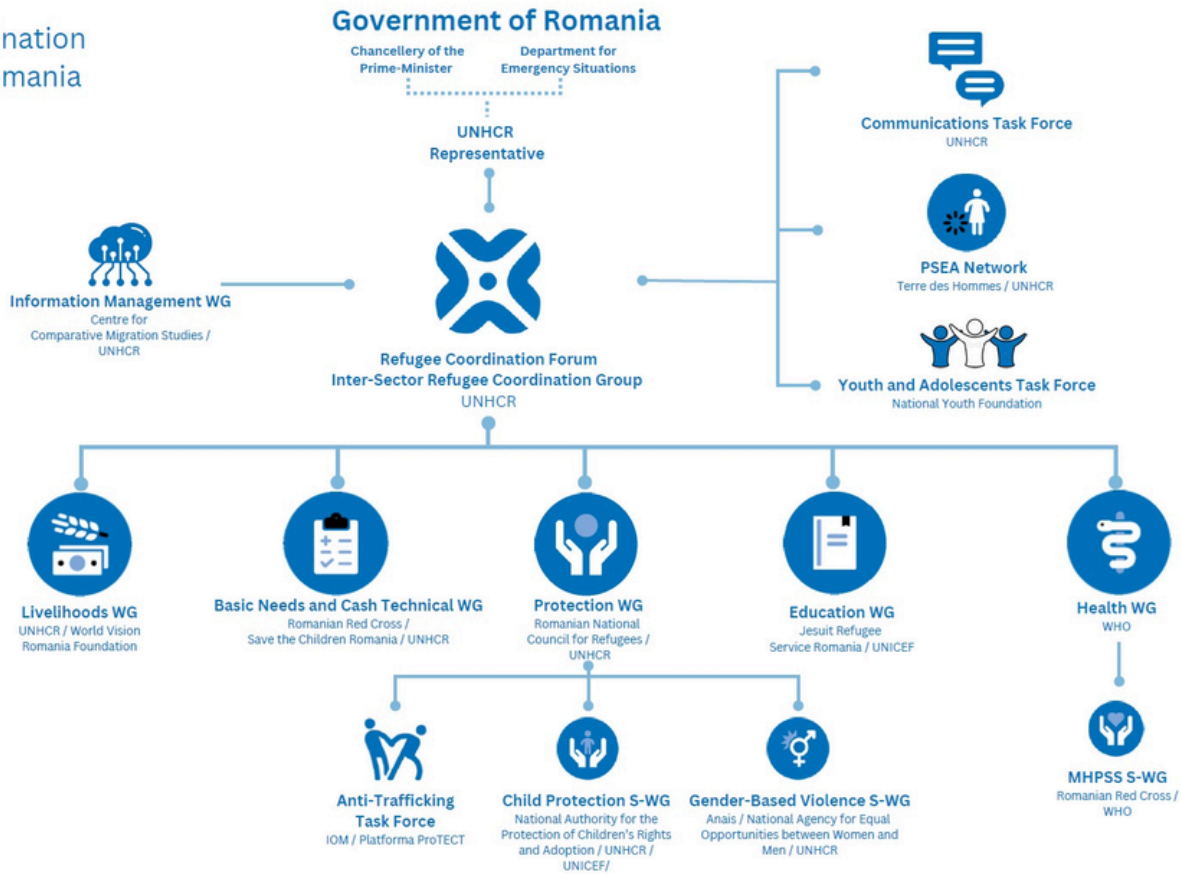
- Transitioning from audient to pupil status remains complex, with some children being asked to repeat academic years due to limited Romanian language proficiency or administrative hurdles.
- Enrolment capacity for pre-school and school levels is limited, and clear information on available spaces is essential to ensure foreign children are accommodated.
- Access to Romanian language classes, testing, and the issuance of certificates/diplomas continues to be a priority.
- Ukrainian educators play a critical role as school mediators and social educators, supporting enrolment and learning.
- Back-to-school programmes, recognition of previous studies, and equivalence procedures remain essential for facilitating continuity in education.
- Recent reorganisations of school and pre-school systems have disrupted integration measures, with children sometimes being asked to move to different locations or refused enrolment despite directives from the School Inspectorates (Order of the Ministry of Education and Research 5.197/2025).

Accommodation Gaps

The accommodation situation for Ukrainian refugees remains critical. Existing collective centres operate at full capacity, limiting availability for new arrivals. Demand for shelter continues to be driven by newly arrived refugees as well as those already in Romania who face barriers to self-reliance. UNHCR and its partners remain committed to addressing these gaps, advocating for sustained support to ensure dignified living conditions and protection for all displaced individuals.

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 Moașelor Independente | ASSOC | Association of Ukrainian Teachers in Romania | Ateliere Fără Frontiere | City Makers | Civic Rădăuți Association | CNRR | Commit Global | Drumul Vieții | EEIRH | 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