

ROMANIA

Weekly Update #201

22 June 2026

Key figures

210,381 refugees obtained temporary protection and refugee status in Romania (as of end April 2026).

755 refugees supported with community-based protection activities in 2026.

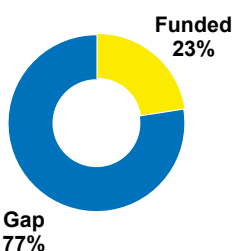
4,240 refugees provided with protection counselling services and legal support in 2026.

1,397 refugees supported with livelihood and employment services in 2026.

“ For me, World Refugee Day is personal. We fled the war, and I still remember that moment of leaving everything behind. In Romania we found safety again - not as an abstract idea, but as everyday life. It hurts to carry what we lost, but there is also a deep, quiet relief in finally being safe.”
Olena, a 36-year-old refugee from Kherson, Ukraine, living in Constanța, Romania.

UNHCR Romania Funding Situation

As of 31 May 2026
\$23.4 million
UNHCR's funding requirements 2026



World Refugee Day 2026

During the past week, refugees, UNHCR and partners, marked the World Refugee Day (20 June) with a series of events on the theme “Until Everyone is Safe”. Coming at a time when the right to seek asylum is under growing pressure in many parts of the world, it reminds people of the enduring relevance of the [1951 Refugee Convention](#). Adopted 75 years ago, the Convention is based on a simple but powerful, universal principle: the right to seek safety extends to us all.



The Odeon theatre in Bucharest on 20 June - one of several buildings illuminated in blue to mark World Refugee Day. Photo: UNHCR



On 11 June, UNHCR, together with the Arad Department for Social Assistance and the refugee-led organization Centru De Vis, organized a World Refugee Day event in Arad, bringing together children, young people and families from Ukraine alongside members of the local community. Through music, a flash mob, creative workshops, face painting, drumming, a film screening and an interactive contest,

participants shared experiences, built new friendships and strengthened community ties. The event promoted inclusion and social cohesion by creating opportunities for meaningful interaction between refugees and members of the host community.

On 12 June, UNHCR, in collaboration with the Romanian Football Federation, organized the Together on the Pitch football tournament on 12 June. The event brought together six mixed teams comprising refugees from Ukraine and other countries, representatives of the General Inspectorate for Immigration, the General Directorate of Social Assistance of the Municipality of Bucharest, and UNHCR and humanitarian partners. The tournament highlighted the power of sport to bring together people from different backgrounds, promoting inclusion, solidarity and teamwork. The winning team, Freedom, was composed of refugees from Ukraine.



On 16 June, UNHCR organized a creative workshop for children and their families at the UNHCR Community Centre for Refugees at RomExpo in Bucharest. The workshop provided a welcoming space for participants to connect, learn and express their creativity while reflecting on the values of inclusion, kindness and community. Children and their caregivers decorated a variety of items, encouraging imagination, self-expression and collaboration. Families also

discussed the significance of World Refugee Day and the importance of supporting people forced to flee their homes. Bringing together Ukrainian refugee and Romanian children, the event created opportunities for interaction, friendship and mutual understanding, fostering a stronger sense of belonging among participating families.

On 18 June, UNHCR, in partnership with Cărturești bookstore, launched a curated book corner, bringing together titles written by refugees or stories exploring themes of displacement. The opening event included a conversation with UNHCR Representative, Pablo Zapata, who reflected on the significance of World Refugee Day and his personal experience as a former refugee, alongside journalist, Horia Ghibuțiu, who explored the role of reading in fostering empathy and understanding. The refugee book corner initiative will run for one month at Cărturești Carusel and Verona bookstores, and [online](#), giving readers the opportunity to better understand the realities and struggles of forced displacement.



On 19 June, UNHCR, together with One World Romania, and in the presence of H.E. Ms. Anna Hällerman, Ambassador of Sweden to Romania, presented a special screening of the documentary “A Fox Under a Pink Moon,” directed by Mehrdad Oskouei and co-directed by Soraya Akhlaghi. The film tells the story of an Afghan refugee artist navigating the challenges of leaving Iran to reunite with her mother in Austria, offering a deeply personal perspective on displacement. The documentary was awarded Best Film in the International Competition at the 2025 Amsterdam International Documentary Film Festival (IDFA). A dialogue involving participants - including refugees from Afghanistan

and Ukraine - with Director of the One World Romania International Documentary and Human Rights Film Festival, Andreea Lăcătuș, and the UNHCR Representative, followed the screening.

On 20 June, partners implementing the Refugee Response Plan marked World Refugee Day by launching the second edition of the Together in the Park initiative in Herăstrău Park, in coordination with Green Revolution. The event brought together approximately 500 refugees and members of the public for a programme of family-friendly activities, including creative workshops, games, music, sports and information sessions, celebrating social cohesion, multiculturalism and community. Activities were organized by UNHCR in partnership with the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR), the Independent Midwives Association, IOM, the National Youth Foundation, the Roma Education Fund Romania and Save the Children Romania, with support from Red Panda.



On 22 June, UNHCR, with the support of UNHCR partner AIDRom, Timiș County Youth Foundation (FITT), Save the Children Romania, and the Ukrainian Union of Romania – Timiș Branch, organized a multicultural event titled “Safe Together: a celebration of cultures and hope” and an art exhibition on the theme “75 Voices for 75 Years” in Timișoara. The event brought together refugees from the Emergency Transit Centre (ETC), refugee communities in Timișoara, youth



volunteers from several European countries participating in FITT programs, local authorities, West University of Timișoara (UVT), civil society representatives, and members of the host community. Through creative workshops including painting, pottery, henna painting, face painting, and traditional songs and dance, the afternoon was filled with energy, creativity, bringing people of different ages, backgrounds, and nationalities together and turning cultural differences into bridges of hope and strength.

[UNHCR’s public service announcement](#) highlighting the plight of refugees worldwide was screened in all Cineplexx cinemas across Romania on 20 June and broadcast on Romanian national television (TVR) for one week. By reaching audiences through national media platforms, the campaign helped raise public awareness of the challenges faced by people forced to flee and reinforced the importance of solidarity, protection and inclusion for refugees.



UNHCR is grateful to the donors for unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions to the Ukraine situation. UNHCR in Romania is also grateful to donors contributing to its 2026 programmes. For more details: [Romania Funding Update – 2026](#)