COUNTRY CHAPTER

BULGARIA

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At a Glance

Country Planned Response
(January 2025 - December 2026)

82,000
refugee population planned for assistance

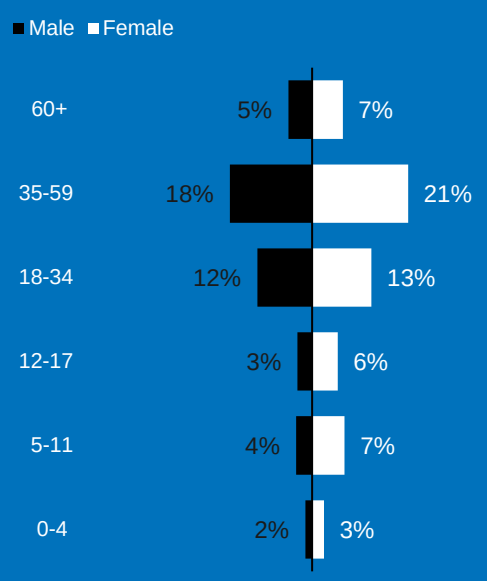
$56.6M
total financial requirements in USD

19
RRP partners

Population planning figures

	CURRENT POPULATION AS OF DECEMBER 2024	POPULATION PLANNED FOR ASSISTANCE	
		2025	2026
Refugee Population	75,260	82,000	82,000

Age and gender breakdown [23]



8%
People with disabilities

57%
Women and girls

43%
Men and boys

24%
Children

[23] Calculations are based on the Government's valid Temporary Protection database.

Part 1: Current Situation

Situation Overview

During 2024, the Government of Bulgaria has granted or renewed temporary protection to some 75,000 refugees. More than two-thirds are women and children. Bulgaria has seen a slight increase in temporary protection registration rates during the year, as compared to that of the previous year. Rapid protection monitoring during the summer months showed that most newly arriving refugees were from the most affected regions of southern and eastern Ukraine. [24] The 2024 Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS) findings [25] illustrate that most of the refugees interviewed have been present in Bulgaria for an average of 23 months, [26] indicating a stable population within the country who need continued meaningful inclusion within national systems and host communities.

Despite holding two national parliamentary elections in 2024 – marking seven election cycles in three years – Bulgaria has yet to achieve a parliamentary majority to form a new government. In this context, the Government of Bulgaria has continued to extend the national humanitarian programme for refugees from Ukraine, currently until end 2024. The programme includes government-sponsored accommodation in state facilities and hotels, most of which are in the Burgas and Varna regions. The Government is developing a new humanitarian and integration programme, which has not yet concluded. In March 2024, the draft programme was presented to the Council of Ministers but not adopted due to the change of government. The 2025-26 RRP will continue to support the efforts of the Government to provide humanitarian services for all refugees in Bulgaria, advancing towards stronger localization and inclusion initiatives. [27]

Country Risks and Needs

As refugees in Bulgaria plan to stay longer due to the uncertainty around the possibility to return, the focus is shifting towards meeting longer-term socio-economic inclusion needs, especially in employment, education, language skills, health information and social benefits. Access to healthcare remains a key concern and continues to be the top priority need cited by SEIS respondents, with 14 per cent of respondents in need of healthcare reporting difficulties accessing the national system due to high costs, the lack of health insurance, and transportation issues. [28] These needs remain high as nearly one-third of individuals interviewed (32 per cent) self-identified

[24] UNHCR Bulgaria, Protection Profiling and Monitoring Brief, July 2024, Document - Bulgaria - Protection Profiling and Monitoring Brief

[25] The 2024 SEIS was conducted through an inter-agency effort to provide updated information on the key needs, intentions and capacities of refugees from Ukraine: 1,072 households were interviewed, which represents 2,360 household members from Ukraine from June to July 2024. Document - Bulgaria - Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS) Preliminary findings

[26] Of the respondents, 88 per cent reported having been in Bulgaria for more than a year.

[27] Bulgaria also hosts refugees and asylum-seekers mostly from Syria, Afghanistan and Morocco, with some 9,800 asylum applications received by the State Agency for Refugees in the first three quarters of 2024.

[28] The lack of health insurance is also related to the costs as respondents (16 per cent) who are not employed, self-employed or employed without a contract reported not being able to afford it.

as having a chronic medical condition.[29] Additionally, one-fifth of households reported having at least one member experiencing mental health or psychosocial problems. Only a little over one-third (36 per cent) of those households reported that mental health support was received. A sense of uncertainty faced by refugees in relation to their stay and future in Bulgaria is often cited as having an impact on their well-being.

According to the analysis, 65 per cent of respondents of working age are employed. Of those who are unemployed, the key challenge mentioned is the lack of knowledge of Bulgarian language. The share of young people who are not in education, training or employment is 13 per cent. Close to half of households (44 per cent) with school-aged children reported that at least one child was not enrolled in school in Bulgaria. While this is a significant decrease from the previous year (by more than one quarter), ensuring enrolment of refugee children and youth in national school systems remains essential for child protection, psycho-social well-being and future career and life opportunities as well as women's access to employment and self-reliance opportunities.

The high number of female-headed households – 62 per cent according to the 2024 SEIS – highlights the heightened risks faced by refugee women in the context of employment, uncertainty on accommodation, and vulnerability to gender-based violence risks across various areas of life. The lack of awareness in accessing GBV services remains the most frequently cited barrier (46 per cent), followed by language and cultural barriers (37 per cent), stigma and shame (23 per cent) and the lack of trust in institutional services (19 per cent).[30]

Additionally, almost one-fifth of the refugee population in Bulgaria consists of older people who need targeted support. Among SEIS respondents, eight per cent reported having a disability at level three or higher according to the Washington Group Questions, signifying substantial difficulty or inability to perform basic daily activities. There remain gaps in mechanisms for the identification of those with specific needs who need additional support, including social assistance.

Part 2: Country Response and Solutions Strategy

Country Strategic Objectives

Strategic Objective 1: Support Bulgaria to ensure that refugees have continued access to protection, legal status, and rights, with a particular focus on groups in vulnerable situations and including age, gender and diversity considerations.

In 2025-26, RRP partners will continue to advocate for rights under temporary protection and international protection by monitoring refugees' equal access to protection and rights, offering legal assistance, and contributing to policy and legislative development. In preparations for a possible

[29] 2024 SEIS
[30] Ibid.

post EU Temporary Protection Directive legal regime, RRP partners will offer support to the Government in ensuring continued legal certainty, access to protection and socio-economic inclusion prospects for refugees. In particular, partners will support the Government to establish mechanisms that ensure consistent identification of individuals with specific needs and safe referral pathways to appropriate services for their effective access to rights. RRP partners will also assist the national government and local municipalities in providing refugees with accurate and reliable information to empower them to exercise their rights fully.

Strategic Objective 2: Support Bulgaria in their efforts to include refugees in national systems – decent work, social protection, health, education, child protection services – with a particular focus on outreach and inclusion of vulnerable groups and including, age, gender and disability considerations.

RRP partners will continue to advocate for the inclusion of all refugees regardless of nationality in government services and national strategies on a non-discriminatory basis through an age, gender and diversity-sensitive approach. Working with the Government to address barriers to affordable housing, education, employment, health – as well as financial, social protection and child protection services will be critical. By end-2026, the objective will be to ensure refugees' full access through the implementation of inclusive and non-discriminatory policies[31] in these areas, with at least 90 per cent of refugee children in formal primary and secondary education, 90 per cent of working-age refugees actively participating in the labour force, and 100 per cent of refugees guaranteed access to basic health services when needed. For this, RRP partners will work collaboratively to enhance mechanisms for monitoring inclusion and generating representative socio-economic data. Additionally, RRP partners will work closely with authorities, key institutions, private sector and development actors to strengthen refugees' socio-economic inclusion in their host communities and increase their self-reliance. Support will include raising awareness of rights as well as technical support on inclusion policies and long-term integration programmes.

Strategic Objective 3: Strengthen social cohesion between refugee communities and their hosts in Bulgaria.

RRP partners will continue to promote cohesion through education, recreational, cultural and sports activities and clubs inclusive of all age groups that invite all refugees and the host community. These will be organized in close collaboration with local municipalities and civil society organizations (inclusive of community-based, refugee-led, and faith-based organizations). The aim will be to reduce negative **perceptions** within local communities toward refugees as the Ukraine situation becomes protracted – and to contribute to more resilient communities. The one-refugee approach will be important for all refugees in Bulgaria to enjoy inclusion and cohesion, without discrimination. This approach will include communication campaigns, education in schools, and

[31] According to Article 2 of Bulgaria's Employment Promotion Act and Article 2 of Bulgaria's Labor Migration and Labor Mobility Act, no one shall be allowed any direct or indirect discrimination, privileges or restrictions based on nationality, origin, ethnicity, personal status, gender, sexual orientation, race, age, disability, political beliefs or religious confession, membership in trade unions or other public organisations or movements, social, marital or material status.

continued awareness-raising and trainings among professional networks (teachers, mental health practitioners, legal professionals, general practitioners). Refugees will be supported to contribute fully to their communities and RRP partners will work through a community-based approach to reinforce supportive communities that further promote social cohesion.

Strategic Objective 4: Advance the localization of the response in Bulgaria, by supporting national and local civil society, municipalities and local authorities, and coordination structures, as well as sharing and building capacities and supporting sustainable responses.

During 2025-26, the objective of the refugee coordination mechanism in Bulgaria will be to ensure locally-led coordination structures with a sustainable transition to coordination leadership by the Government. Additionally, RRP partners will aim to develop joint government and inter-agency contingency plans to respond to any emergencies. With key state agencies and institutions, partners will conduct joint inter-agency partner-government assessments of the needs of all refugees in Bulgaria to better understand and sustainably address the key needs and vulnerabilities of the refugee communities in the country.

RRP partners will also advocate for and explore a variety of resource mobilization opportunities and sustainable funding for community-based organizations and refugee-led organizations, including through funds that can be accessed by municipalities. RRP partners will provide capacity building targeting community-based and refugee-led organizations to effectively engage with local institutions. These will remain crucial for supporting localization efforts and community empowerment.

Sectoral Responses

Cross-Cutting Priorities of the RRP

- Accountability to Affected Populations
- Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD)
- Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)
- One-Refugee Approach
- Sustainability
- Government Ownership

Read more in the Regional Overview p.20

PROTECTION

In order to enhance the protection environment for refugees in Bulgaria, protection partners will support the Government of Bulgaria to implement effective and rights-based refugee approaches. Efforts will be made to support protection-sensitive border systems and monitoring of access to status and rights.

To mitigate protection risks, partners will enhance awareness raising on available state and other humanitarian services, especially as 12 per cent of refugees in the SEIS reported not knowing where to access information on services. Importantly, protection partners in Bulgaria will provide services, including through mobile teams, specifically ensuring outreach to refugees, including to those facing discrimination due to their sexual orientation or gender identity and expression; older people; and people with disabilities. These activities will employ a community-based protection approach that engages community-based organizations led by refugees and women. Protection partners will ensure refugees are actively involved in decision-making processes, including advocating for and supporting their participation in decision-making mechanisms led by local authorities.

Partners will also privilege the continued provision of MHPSS activities – both individually and in groups – to promote the psychological wellbeing of adults and children affected by displacement and trauma, with the aim of enhancing resilience.

Sub-sector: Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

The lack of information on available GBV services remains the main barrier to access support, as reported by 46 per cent of refugee respondents in the SEIS. The main services that respondents reported knowing how to refer community members to were police and health services, while other services are less known. To ensure survivors receive timely assistance, RRP partners will provide clear information about available services and established referral pathways, facilitating access to legal aid and

psychosocial support. This multi-layered approach is designed to build a responsive and supportive environment, ensuring that survivors have the resources needed to recover and rebuild safely. Partners will enhance information campaigns on available services, and provide awareness-raising activities and trainings on GBV risk mitigation and prevention to various target groups according to their specific needs. Partners will also collaborate through the Protection and Inclusion Working Group to enhance referral pathways and service mapping, with the aim to promote access and inclusion of refugee women and children to these services regardless of their nationality or legal status. At the institutional level, partners will support the Government to ensure services are tailored to meet the specific needs of each refugee – and collaborate with relevant institutions to implement activities for the prevention of trafficking and provide comprehensive support to victims of trafficking.

As increased vulnerability to online violence is cited as the second most serious risk faced by boys and girls in the 2024 SEIS findings,[32] partners will also tackle online GBV and other forms of violence affecting refugees by raising awareness and offering solutions to combat cyberbullying, online harassment, violence and hate speech.

Sub-sector: Child Protection

In support of national child protection systems, RRP partners will provide a range of child-centred services aimed at ensuring the safety, well-being and development of refugee children, particularly those who are vulnerable and at risk. Through community-based child protection efforts, RRP partners will work to address psychological violence and deteriorating mental health and psychosocial wellbeing, raised as key concerns for boys and girls in the 2024 SEIS findings. Activities will include mental health and psychosocial support, outreach and referral services. Partners will also provide recreational activities for children in child-friendly spaces, as well as parenting programs and support groups for caregivers particularly single parent households.

Through capacity-building, RRP partners will strengthen individual support, including case management services provided by child protection authorities, NGOs, community-based and refugee-led organizations to address key child protection risks. Partners will collaborate with the national and local authorities, including the State Agency for Child Protection, the State Agency for Refugees, the Ministry of Interior, and the Agency for Social Assistance for the timely identification and referral of children at risk; support for alternative care arrangements; and capacity-building for sustained protection for refugee children, including that unaccompanied and separated children have timely access to guardianship in line with their best interests. Partners will work with national and local authorities to ensure child-friendly procedures and develop and distribute child-friendly information materials, including on the rights of unaccompanied and separated children.

[32] This follows psychological violence being reported as the most serious risk faced by both boys (52 per cent) and girls (55 per cent).

EDUCATION

RRP partners will closely support the Ministry of Education and Sciences (MoES) in the government's efforts to make schools inclusive of all forcibly displaced children; promote enrolment in national school systems[33]; and meet refugee children's long-term educational needs – including those of children with special needs. To enhance access to education, partners will work together with the MoES and its 28 regional departments of education for efficient referral and school admission systems for refugee children. This will also involve advocating with municipalities to expand free transportation services and provide school counsellors to accompany refugee children in remote locations or distant government-sponsored accommodation. Through the Education Working Group, and in close collaboration with schools, partners will support school-age children and their caregivers with adaption to the Bulgarian school system. RRP partners will also provide capacity-building of teachers on early childhood development and fostering inclusive, learner-centred environments. Education partners will ensure continuity of learning and better inclusion for refugee children through Bulgarian language classes, formal and non-formal additional learning support and catch-up classes, provision of educational materials, and skills-building initiatives. Through this, partners aim to create opportunities for refugee children and youth to drive positive changes within their communities.

LIVELIHOODS AND ECONOMIC INCLUSION

RRP partners will closely collaborate with the Ministry of Economy and Industry, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and its Employment Agency, key institutions, and private and public sectors to advocate for enhancing refugees' inclusion in and equal access to the Bulgarian labour market. For this, partners will provide language courses by qualified teachers with experience in teaching Bulgarian as a foreign language; vocational, skills development and entrepreneurial trainings; job profiling and matching; and organization of labour market inclusion events. These activities aim to enhance the employability of refugees, their access to decent work, and overall social and economic inclusion.

Ensuring an accelerated process for the certification of regulated professions[34] will remain a key advocacy point as this will allow refugee professionals to contribute to fill labour market gaps[35] while enhancing their economic and social inclusion in Bulgaria. Partners will also continue to advocate with the Ministry of Education and Science for the elimination of barriers for refugees to access higher education regardless of their protection status. Highlighting the positive contributions of refugees in Bulgaria will also be important initiatives by partners. RRP partners will work with the

[33] In line with UNHCR's Refugee Education 2023 Strategy for inclusion.
[34] This is in line with the European Commission Recommendations 2022/554 that call for rapid and flexible recognition of refugees' qualifications across EU member states in order to ensure their access to regulated professions.
[35] According to the 2024 Labour Needs survey conducted by Bulgaria's Employment Agency and regional employment committees, Bulgarian businesses will need almost 262,000 workers and specialists in the next year to maintain current operational levels.

Government so that a meaningful socio-economic inclusion policy is developed for refugees to fully exercise their rights.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND NUTRITION

The RRP health response aims to support the Government in integrating refugees into its national health systems and in delivering high-quality public health services. To enhance refugees' access to health, partners will continue to provide technical assistance and direct support to the national Bulgarian Association of General Practitioners and its regional branches to timely address concerns identified during health service provision to refugees. Coordination and awareness-raising on health topics on a regional level will continue to be led by the Ministry of Health and its regional health inspectorates.

According to the 2024 SEIS, the primary barriers to accessing healthcare are the hospital fees, high costs of medication and transportation to the nearest clinic, and lack of health insurance[36]. For extremely vulnerable cases, partners will support with the purchasing of medication, medical reimbursement grants, and through the provision of interpretation and health mediation. Collaboration with Bulgarian medical professional associations will continue, with a focus on advocating to integrate refugee healthcare workers into the national workforce and to develop fast-track programs to facilitate their accreditation. Support with Bulgarian language and medical certification exam processes will be provided. RRP partners will provide community health mediator services reaching refugee communities. In 2025-26, these services will be progressively integrated into regular regional and municipal health services to ensure sustainability.

[36] The lack of health insurance is related to the costs. Under the Health Insurance Act and Health Act, refugees are entitled to equal access to medical care and medical services as Bulgaria citizens.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

In Bulgaria, MHPSS remains a cross-cutting priority across all sectors including awareness-raising on the importance of mental health and availability of services. Nearly a quarter of 2024 SEIS respondents say that they have felt so upset, anxious, worried, agitated, angry or depressed that it affected their daily functioning in the past month. To ensure that refugees in need of MHPSS are provided with timely assistance, partners will conduct comprehensive training programs to scale up MHPSS services and introduce scalable interventions. Technical capacity-building trainings will be coordinated through the MHPSS Technical Working Group, tailored for various target groups, including community-based and refugee-led organizations.

When ensuring individual and group psychological counseling for adults and children, partners' interventions will take into consideration refugees in vulnerable situations who need additional support, such as older individuals, people with disabilities, individuals who are isolated, GBV survivors, and children with special needs. MHPSS access and social integration will be further supported by addressing language barriers.

During 2025-26, the MHPSS response will focus on the de-institutionalization of mental health services and implementation of person-centred, rights-based and recovery-oriented mental health services. Continuous support will be provided to strengthen country preparedness and response capacity through policy dialogues aimed at enhancing existing policies and creating sustainable improvements in mental health systems.

BASIC NEEDS

The second and third top priority needs – following health – cited by refugees in Bulgaria in the 2024 SEIS remain food (30 per cent) and accommodation (26 per cent). RRP partners will assist in transitioning the provision of basic needs assistance to the national social protection system for wider socio-economic inclusion, with the aim that national systems progressively include vulnerable refugees and address their essential needs. In this regard, multi-purpose cash-based interventions will continue to be coordinated among RRP partners and the Social Assistance Agency at the national level, and further assessed to ensure impact. Whenever feasible, cash assistance will be complementary to and integrated with other forms of sectoral support. While this gradual transition takes place during 2025-26, RRP partners will support the Government's efforts by providing food vouchers and parcels, basic items such as hygiene products and clothes, and accommodation support for vulnerable cases – identifying families who face significant barriers in accessing essential services.

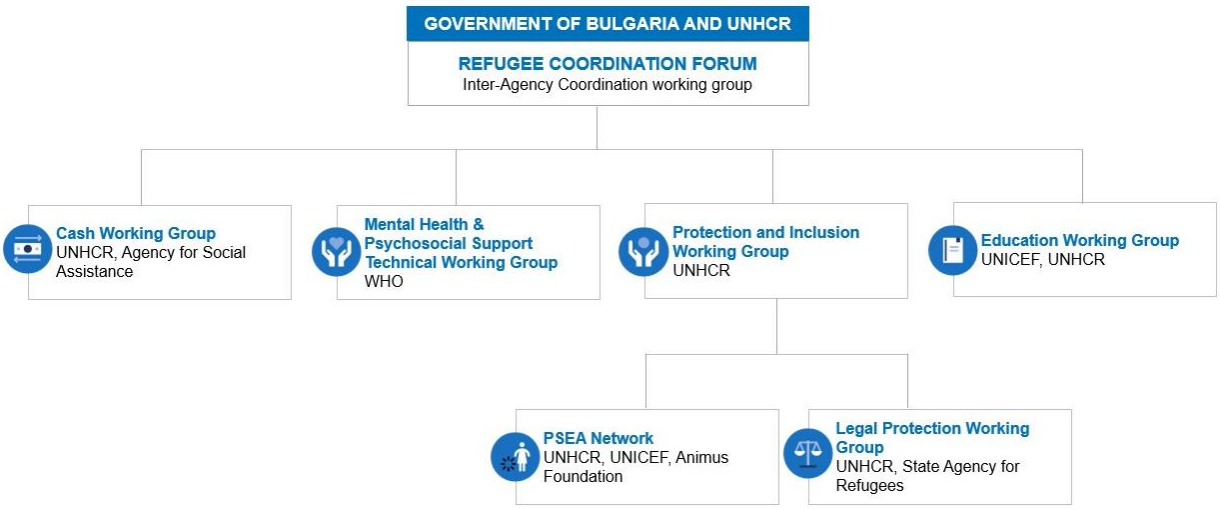
Partnership and Coordination

In line with the Global Compact on Refugees and the Refugee Coordination Model, the national Refugee Coordination Forum will apply a whole-of-society approach, acting as a bridge between civil society and government counterparts until the Government can fully take over existing coordination mechanisms. In 2025-26, the coordination forum will work towards strengthening national and local authorities' capacity to coordinate, including through municipal-led refugee coordination forums. These forums will fully engage the participation of refugees and community-based organizations. All RRP activities will continue to be in support of national plans for the inclusion of refugees, including the National Development Programme *BULGARIA 2030*.[37]

Partners will also support the Government's 2023 Global Refugee Forum pledges: facilitating the economic inclusion and social protection of all refugees; ensuring the protection of all children's rights through a quality social care system at national and local levels particularly for unaccompanied children; and building the humanitarian-development-peace nexus by addressing the root causes of discrimination and violence. This will contribute to upholding the safety, dignity and rights of all refugees in Bulgaria.

Partnerships in all sectors – e.g., with academia, sports organizations, private and development actors – will continue to be pursued as these open opportunities for inclusion and enhancing community resilience through a whole-of-society approach.

Country Coordination Structure



[37] Government of Bulgaria, Ministry of Finance, available at: Ministry of Finance :: National Development Programme BULGARIA 2030

Part 3: Inter-Agency Financial Requirements

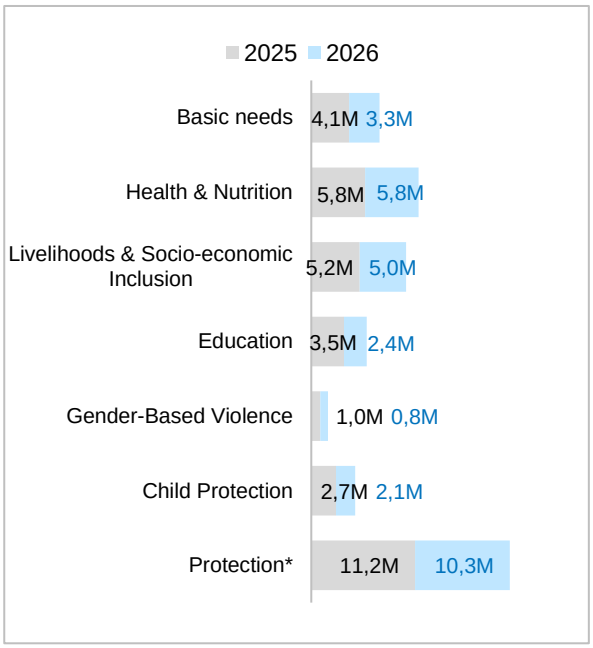
Budget summary by type at country level

PARTNER TYPE	FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS IN USD		
	2025	2026	TOTAL
UN agencies	24,732,748	22,390,743	47,123,491
IFRC & RC	1,520,000	800,000	2,320,000
National NGOs	3,629,255	3,563,603	7,192,857
Faith-based organizations	80,965	85,013	165,978
Woman-led organizations*	932,423	1,007,723	1,940,146
Refugee-led organisations*	2,552,867	2,391,867	4,944,733
TOTAL	**29,882,003**	**26,754,346**	**56,636,348**

* One organization can be classified in multiple sub-categories (women-led, refugee-led, faith-based, etc.), the individual sub-categories can therefore not be added to arrive at the total.

Notes: This list only includes appealing organizations under the RRP, many of which also collaborate with implementing partners additional to those listed here.

Budget summary by sector at country level



** Includes Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence*

Budget summary by partner at the country level

Partner	Year	Protection (excluding CP & GBV)	Child Protection (CP)	Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Education	Livelihoods & Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Needs	Total in US$	TOTAL
UN Agencies										
UN International Organization for Migration	2025	643,000	208,000	-	62,000	416,000	312,000	1,039,000	2,680,000	**4,820,000**
	2026	620,000	100,000	-	60,000	360,000	300,000	700,000	2,140,000	
UN World Health Organization	2025	-	-	-	-	-	4,500,000	-	4,500,000	**9,000,000**
	2026	-	-	-	-	-	4,500,000	-	4,500,000	
United Nations Children's Fund	2025	-	1,120,500	200,000	1,860,848	-	-	-	3,181,348	**4,560,691**
	2026	-	572,652	50,000	756,691	-	-	-	1,379,343	
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	2025	6,240,000	800,000	551,400	1,100,000	3,550,000	380,000	1,750,000	14,371,400	**28,742,800**
	2026	6,240,000	800,000	551,400	1,100,000	3,550,000	380,000	1,750,000	14,371,400	
IFRC and Red Cross										
Bulgarian Red Cross	2025	400,000	20,000	-	-	70,000	30,000	1,000,000	1,520,000	**2,320,000**
	2026	240,000	-	-	-	50,000	10,000	500,000	800,000	
National NGOs										
Aid for Ukraine	2025	72,000	96,000	-	210,000	96,000	-	-	474,000	**1,030,000**
	2026	86,000	150,000	-	240,000	80,000	-	-	556,000	
Animus Association Foundation	2025	150,000	350,000	100,000	-	150,000	500,000	120,000	1,370,000	**2,750,000**
	2026	150,000	350,000	100,000	-	150,000	500,000	130,000	1,380,000	
Association "Big and Small Dreams House"	2025	-	20,000	-	34,000	35,000	12,000	-	101,000	**190,000**
	2026	-	20,000	-	34,000	23,000	12,000	-	89,000	
Association Energy	2025	-	-	122,000	-	-	-	-	122,000	**224,000**
	2026	-	-	102,000	-	-	-	-	102,000	
ASTRA FORUM FOUNDATION	2025	30,000	-	-	-	110,000	70,000	-	210,000	**420,000**
	2026	30,000	-	-	-	110,000	70,000	-	210,000	
Bulgarian Center for Slavic Culture and Spiritual Development	2025	-	-	-	22,690	-	-	-	22,690	**48,640**
	2026	-	-	-	25,950	-	-	-	25,950	
Caritas Bulgaria	2025	-	-	-	-	80,965	-	-	80,965	**165,978**
	2026	-	-	-	-	85,013	-	-	85,013	
Council for Refugee Women in Bulgaria	2025	-	-	-	47,191	-	-	190,112	237,303	**474,606**

Partner	Year	Protection (excluding CP & GBV)	Child Protection (CP)	Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Education	Livelihoods & Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Needs	Total in US$	TOTAL
	2026	-	-	-	47,191	-	-	190,112	237,303	
Dokova & Dokov for Future Foundation	2025	-	-	-	145,000	-	-	-	145,000	**275,000**
	2026	-	-	-	130,000	-	-	-	130,000	
Foundation for Access to Rights	2025	-	48,866	-	-	-	-	-	48,866	**97,732**
	2026	-	48,866	-	-	-	-	-	48,866	
Foundation Zapochvam Otnachalo	2025	-	-	-	-	720,000	-	-	720,000	**1,320,000**
	2026	-	-	-	-	600,000	-	-	600,000	
Open Bulgaria	2025	-	10,630	5,300	-	-	-	-	15,930	**34,700**
	2026	-	12,870	5,900	-	-	-	-	18,770	
Ravda Assistance Community	2025	9,700	7,000	3,300	7,200	-	8,300	-	35,500	**74,200**
	2026	10,500	7,400	3,000	8,000	-	9,800	-	38,700	
Svitlyachok	2025	-	-	-	46,000	-	-	-	46,000	**88,000**
	2026	-	-	-	42,000	-	-	-	42,000	
Total		**14,921,200**	**4,742,784**	**1,794,300**	**5,978,761**	**10,235,978**	**11,594,100**	**7,369,224**	**56,636,347**	**56,636,347**

RRP Monitoring Framework

Sector		Indicator	Target 2025	Target 2026
	Protection	# of individuals who have been supported in accessing protection services	**35,000**	**35,000**
	Child Protection	# of children provided with child protection services	**30,000**	**30,000**
	Gender-Based Violence	# of people who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes	**12,000**	**6,500**
	Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	# of PSEA network members, partner personnel and staff members of stakeholders involved in the refugee response trained on SEA risk mitigation, prevention and response	**120**	**120**
	Education	# of children and youth supported with education programming (includes support to enrol in formal and non-formal)	**16,000**	**12,000**
	Health and Nutrition	# of individuals supported in accessing health services	**35,000**	**65,500**
	Health and Nutrition	# of health care providers trained to provide services to refugees	**1,470**	**1,470**
	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	# of individuals participating in MHPSS services and activities	**11,500**	**12,100**
	Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion	# of individuals who benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions	**19,250**	**21,000**
	Basic Needs	# of individuals who received assistance for basic needs	**20,000**	**20,000**

ANNEX 1 – LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACRONYM	Full description
AAP	Accountability to Affected Populations
AGD	Age, Gender, and Diversity
CBI	Cash-Based Interventions
GBV	Gender-based violence
LGBTIQ+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex and Queer
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
MSNA	Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment
NGO	Non-government organization
PSEA	Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
RCF	Regional Refugee Coordination Forum
RLO	Refugee-led organizations
RRP	Regional Response Plan
TPD	Temporary Protection Directive
SEIS	Socio-Economic Insights Survey
WLO	Women Led Organization
CP	Child Protection
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
MoES	Ministry of Education and Sciences

ANNEX 2 – RRP PARTNERS' PROJECT OVERVIEW

Sector	Partner	Short Activity Description	Amount required for 2025 USD	Amount required for 2026 USD	Contact
Basic Needs	Animus Association Foundation	Overseeing the management of several critical services designed to address essential needs including a 24-hour Crisis Centre, which provides support and shelter for victims of domestic violence, ensuring they have access to immediate safety and comprehensive care. Offering specialized support for victims of trafficking through the Transit Centre Programme, providing them with a safe environment and the necessary resources to begin their recovery and reintegration process.	**120,000**	**130,000**	**animus@animusassociation.org**
	Bulgarian Red Cross	Distributing food vouchers and food parcels. Providing multi-purpose cash assistance.	**1,000,000**	**500,000**	**mihail.mihailov@ifrc.org**
	Council for Refugee Women in Bulgaria	Supporting vulnerable refugee families through the Vulnerability Fund, especially survivors of GBV, by covering costs for medicines, medical services, and emergency rent payments. Providing essential material assistance to refugees with little to no resources, helping them meet basic needs like clothing and hygiene products. Distributing food vouchers to families facing severe challenges in accessing nutritious food, ensuring their physical health and emotional well-being.	**190,112**	**190,112**	**l.awanis@crw-bg.org**
	IOM	Providing emergency, short-term, and mid-term accommodation to ensure that individuals and families in crisis have a safe and secure place to stay. Distributing food vouchers to families with children. Providing Cash-Based Interventions which are based on carefully assessed vulnerability criteria.	**1,039,000**	**700,000**	**msamuilova@iom.int**
	UNHCR	Providing accommodation for highly vulnerable individuals through partnerships in Plovdiv. Supporting basic needs through a multi-purpose cash assistance program, transitioning to multi-month support to ensure greater impact and predictability for beneficiaries.	**1,750,000**	**1,750,000**	**rodrigun@unhcr.org**
Health & Nutrition[38]	Animus Association Foundation	Providing accommodation and nutrition to beneficiaries through a 24-hour Crisis Centre for women victims of domestic violence and a Municipality Social Services Centre for Children and Families, which includes a Community Support Centre and a Mother and Baby Unit. Providing parental support and expert advice on nutrition for young children through a trained medical professional. Supporting beneficiaries with doctor's appointments and the purchase of medications.	**500,000**	**500,000**	**animus@animusassociation.org**
	Association "Big and Small Dreams House"	Providing psychological help and support through individual and group psychological counselling for both adults and children, as well as family mediation services. Providing speech therapy for children ages 3 to 7 years, ensuring they receive the necessary support for their speech and language development.	**12,000**	**12,000**	**o.irzhytskaya@dreamshouse.org**
	Astra Forum Foundation	Ensuring children's health and education, including nutrition, will be integrated into all activities. Training, educating, and raising awareness among parents about the health needs of their children. Providing MHPSS activities and services through experienced professionals. Working with the established network of refugee-friendly doctors, including GPs in order to better meet the needs of the community.	**70,000**	**70,000**	**momchil@astraforumfoundation.org**

[38] Including specialized MHPSS activities.

Sector	Partner	Short Activity Description	Amount required for 2025 USD	Amount required for 2026 USD	Contact
	Bulgarian Red Cross	Providing medical reimbursement grants to assist individuals with covering the costs of necessary medical treatments and services. Providing first aid training to equip participants with essential skills to respond effectively in emergency situations. Developing a healthy living awareness program which aims to educate and promote practices that contribute to overall well-being, encouraging individuals to adopt healthier lifestyles.	**30,000**	**10,000**	**mihail.mihailov@ifrc.org**
	Ravda Assistance Community	Providing access to psychological help, particularly for isolated older individuals. Conducting empowerment activities for people with disabilities, older adults, including social cohesion support. For children, providing consultations with nutritionists to promote healthy eating habits and raise awareness about healthy living. Organizing psychological support groups utilizing various therapeutic methods such as group therapy, art therapy, film therapy, laughter therapy, and bibliotherapy.	**8,300**	**9,800**	**maryplash444@gmail.com**
	IOM	Supporting the purchase of medicines and covering the costs of medical examinations and interventions for individuals in vulnerable situations, such as those with chronic medical conditions not covered by the health insurance system. Facilitating access to health services through interpretation and health mediation.	**312,000**	**300,000**	**msamuilova@iom.int**
	WHO	Providing services through Community Health Mediators. Awareness-raising on risks and incidence of communicable and non-communicable diseases. Enhancing Bulgarian capabilities in preventing, detecting, and responding to health emergencies. Developing anti-stigma and anti-bullying communication campaigns. Supporting integration of Ukrainian medical workers into the Bulgarian health system. Procuring essential medical equipment in low-resourced hospitals and clinics. Supporting the national Bulgarian Association of GPs and regional associations. MHPSS capacity building for NGOs, community-based organizations, and other relevant structures.	**4,500,000**	**4,500,000**	**melgaardj@who.int**
	UNHCR	Supporting refugees' mental health through levels 2 and 3 MHPSS activities provided by psychologists, including specialized MHPSS support for children. Providing professional clinical support for cases when required.	**380,000**	**380,000**	**rodrigun@unhcr.org**
Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion	Aid for Ukraine	Providing Bulgarian language courses, enhancing refugees' ability to navigate daily life, access services, and integrate into local communities. Organizing seminars on understanding local laws, healthcare access, education systems, and cultural norms. Conducting business workshops to equip participants with the necessary knowledge to start and run a business in Bulgaria. Implementing skill development training programs, focusing on enhancing existing skills or teaching new trades, increasing employability.	**96,000**	**80,000**	**info@uaid.org.ua**
	Animus Association Foundation	Providing labor and socio-economic integration activities, along with empowerment initiatives, at the Crisis Centre and the Community Centre and Women and Girls Safe Space.	**150,000**	**150,000**	**animus@animusassociation.org**
	Astra Forum Foundation	Education and training for adults, particularly healthcare workers aspiring to work in Bulgaria's medical sector. Facilitating better social integration for parents and young adults through language studies and job opportunities. Supporting Ukrainian healthcare workers to legalize their diplomas.	**110,000**	**110,000**	**momchil@astraforumfoundation.org**
	Association "Big and Small Dreams House"	Developing and utilizing the initiative 'Eco Friendships: Bulgaria and Ukraine Together for the Environment', aiming to integrate and bring closer Ukrainian and Bulgarian families who share values related to environmental protection. Providing Bulgarian language courses with an economic and financial focus. Organizing the Social Workshop "Dream House", engaging participants in work activities and educational opportunities.	**35,000**	**23,000**	**o.irzhytskaya@dreamshouse.org**
	Bulgarian Red Cross	Providing comprehensive Bulgarian language classes designed to facilitate language acquisition and integration for refugees.	**70,000**	**50,000**	**mihail.mihailov@ifrc.org**

Sector	Partner	Short Activity Description	Amount required for 2025 USD	Amount required for 2026 USD	Contact
	Caritas Bulgaria	Providing specialized Bulgarian language training to support displaced individuals in finding employment or advancing in their jobs, including developing a training methodology, creating instructional materials, and conducting courses on professional topics by qualified teachers across Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna, Burgas, and Ruse. Improving access to dignified employment, enhancing social and economic inclusion, and increasing workplace efficiency for refugees.	**80,965**	**85,013**	**k.ivanov@caritas.bg**
	Foundation Zapochvam Otnachalo	Establishing an information and cultural center in Blagoevgrad, assisting refugees in finding housing, employment, medical care, educational institutions, translation services and with administrative documents. Conducting labor fairs. Assisting in transferring businesses from Ukraine to the Blagoevgrad region through consultations and training sessions. Assisting the recognition of education qualifications. Supporting integration of refugees into the educational system. Organizing Bulgarian and English language courses, along with Ukrainian and Russian language learning for children. Organizing cultural events, thematic meetings, workshops, and master classes.	**720,000**	**600,000**	**fzo.officebg@gmail.com**
	IOM	Providing Bulgarian language courses for adults at various proficiency levels, to enhance language skills and facilitate better integration. Supporting professional orientation, organizing professional qualification and re-qualification courses to improve employability. Organizing events to raise awareness among local businesses and employers about the benefits of integrating refugees from Ukraine.	**416,000**	**360,000**	**msamuilova@iom.int**
	UNHCR	Advocating for authorities, civil society and the private sector to take full advantage of refugees' actual and potential impact in the Bulgarian economy. Expanding the direct individual and group support for job profiling and matching, upskilling, vocational training and entrepreneurship, and exploring the possibility of cash for livelihoods. Revamping the Refugee Employment Platform to strengthen job-matching and wrap-around services for employability. Strengthening cooperation with the private sector to jointly expand the evidence base for further economic inclusion of refugees. Continuing the cash assistance program for higher education.	**3,550,000**	**3,550,000**	**rodrigun@unhcr.org**
Protection[39]	Aid for Ukraine	Providing tailored psychological support to address emotional and mental health needs of refugees. Conducting workshops and seminars to enhance refugees' psychological resilience. Organizing awareness campaigns to educate refugees about the risks of human trafficking and exploitation, providing critical insights into safe migration practices and available resources. Implementing measures for PSEA, including training sessions for staff and community members to ensure understanding of PSEA principles and reporting mechanisms.	**72,000**	**86,000**	**info@uaid.org.ua**
	Animus Association Foundation	Providing a range of services for trafficking victims, including accommodation in a crisis center, psychological and social support, assistance with labor market integration, and legal aid. Providing capacity-building training, workshops, and seminars on Trafficking in Human Beings and PSEA, enhancing the skills and knowledge of those involved in combating these issues.	**150,000**	**150,000**	**animus@animusassociation.org**
	Astra Forum Foundation	Providing individual and group psychosocial support services to protect refugees, especially vulnerable groups like women, children, people with disabilities and people suffering from chronic conditions. Conducting PSEA training and workshops for both refugees and host communities.	**30,000**	**30,000**	**momchil@astraforumfoundation.org**

[39] Including community based MHPSS activities.

Sector	Partner	Short Activity Description	Amount required for 2025 USD	Amount required for 2026 USD	Contact
	Bulgarian Red Cross	Providing financial support to individuals or families through cash for protection. Conducting art therapy sessions. Establishing a dedicated PSS support line to offer immediate assistance and counselling to those in need, ensuring access to mental health resources. Providing peer-to-peer PSS programs which facilitate mutual support among individuals with shared experiences, fostering a sense of community and understanding. Providing staff care and support initiatives to ensure the well-being of those providing these critical services.	**400,000**	**240,000**	**mihail.mihailov@ifrc.org**
	Ravda Assistance Community	Providing Psychological First Aid to those arriving with deep trauma, offering essential support for their assimilation and integration into Bulgarian society. Establishing a club for retired and disabled refugees; providing free psychological support.	**9,700**	**10,500**	**maryplash444@gmail.com**
	IOM	Providing individual consultations to support access to basic services, including health, social, and financial assistance. Raising awareness about protection risks, including counter-trafficking measures. Distributing awareness-raising materials, such as PSEA posters, and conducting trainings for staff. Ensuring AAP[40], which includes running a hotline, post-distribution monitoring, and maintaining a community feedback mechanism. Conducting consultations with beneficiaries to gather their input and ensure their needs are met effectively.	**643,000**	**620,000**	**msamuilova@iom.int**
	UNHCR	Ensuring protection-sensitive border arrangements; monitoring access to territory in coordination with Bulgarian and European institutions. Providing information, legal, and administrative assistance. Expanding UNHCR's COMPASS centers to new locations and mobile modalities; promoting sports initiatives and psychosocial wellbeing activities including community based MHPSS. Enhancing the work with RLOs through additional grants, capacity-building activities, and support for refugee volunteers. Providing specialized support for refugees facing discrimination including due to their SOGIESC[41]. Promoting targeted interventions for older refugees.	**6,240,000**	**6,240,000**	**rodrigun@unhcr.org**
Child Protection	Aid for Ukraine	Providing a comprehensive range of services to ensure the safety, well-being, and development of children. Providing counselling, therapy, and group support sessions aimed at helping children cope with their feelings and build resilience. Providing tailored support for children with special educational needs, involving individualized education plans, specialized teaching strategies, therapy sessions, and inclusion programs.	**96,000**	**150,000**	**info@uaid.org.ua**
	Animus Association Foundation	Offering comprehensive support to child victims of violence and their families, utilizing an integrated approach that combines legal, medical, psychological, and social practices within a child-friendly environment in the Centre for Advocacy and Support for Children Victims of Violence "Zona ZaKrila". Providing primary services to children and their parents which include information and counselling, psychotherapy, advocacy and mediation, training in social and life skills, and community work.	**350,000**	**350,000**	**animus@animusassociation.org**
	Association "Big and Small Dreams House"	Developing the MoMo ("Moms on the Move") project, encompassing development, start-up, and ongoing support including offering live psychosocial support and counselling through a dedicated YouTube channel and podcast series; creating development plans for children. Organizing support groups for mothers of children up to six years old.	**20,000**	**20,000**	**o.irzhytskaya@dreamshouse.org**
	Bulgarian Red Cross	Supporting Bulgarian Reception Centers to update polices and guidelines associated with Child protection, PSEA, Protection, Gender & Inclusion.	**20,000**	**-**	**mihail.mihailov@ifrc.org**

[40] Accountability to Affected Populations
[41] Sexual orientation, gender identities, gender expressions and sex characteristics

Sector	Partner	Short Activity Description	Amount required for 2025 USD	Amount required for 2026 USD	Contact
	Foundation for Access to Rights	Providing legal advice, drafting legal documents, and offering information on UASC rights and obligations, legal status procedures, family reunification, and everyday legal matters, bringing strategic legal cases to national and European courts. Hosting of online info sessions and disseminating clear and trustworthy information in Ukrainian, Russian, Farsi, Pashto, and Arabic through social media channels and instant messaging apps moderated by FAR. Continuing the activities of social mediators, meeting in person with unaccompanied and separated refugee children in reception centers and frequently accompany them to various institutions and authorities.	**48,867**	**48,867**	**valeria.ilareva@farbg.eu**
	Ravda Assistance Community	Providing classes with a speech therapist. Conducting group physiotherapy rehabilitation and fitness for children under three years old. Providing acting classes for children. Providing soft skills mentorship, focusing on developing leadership skills and training in cybersecurity and artificial intelligence. Providing English language classes. Providing the "Know Yourself" course, teaching the basics of survival in a crisis, including how to protect oneself, both online and in everyday life.	**7,000**	**7,400**	**maryplash444@gmail.com**
	Open Bulgaria	Providing Psychological Support for Ukrainian Refugees in Bulgaria, to improve their emotional and psychological well-being, and support their integrating into Bulgarian society through support and creativity groups that offer emotional support, developing creative potential and providing legal support in cases of discrimination, rights violations, or abuse, along with training to prevent such issues.	**10,630**	**12,870**	**bgopen4you@gmail.com**
	IOM	Organizing of recreational child protection services.	**208,000**	**100,000**	**msamuilova@iom.int**
	UNHCR	Providing individual case management support to children and caregivers. Addressing key protection risks through improved cooperation for the identification and referral of unaccompanied children and support for alternative care arrangements. At the institutional level, focusing on coordination for advocacy, capacity-building, and identification of opportunities for impact.	**800,000**	**800,000**	**rodrigun@unhcr.org**
	UNICEF	Prioritizing the deliverance of essential support to refugee children and caregivers, focusing on child-centered services in key regions. Providing MHPSS, child-friendly spaces, outreach, and referral services. Enhancing case management in collaboration with local municipalities, particularly for unaccompanied and separated children and strengthening child protection systems. Capacity building for national and local authorities to ensure sustained care and protection for refugee and migrant children.	**1,120 500**	**572,652**	**lvoynova@unicef.org**
GBV	Association Energy	Supporting access to MHPSS for GBV survivors. Conducting support group meetings for GBV survivors and their children. Creating video content and podcasts to help other refugee victims who are hesitant to share their experiences. Developing an online platform to serve as a centralized hub for information and resources related to GBV. Organizing trainings to develop leadership, group facilitation, and communication skills.	**122,000**	**102,000**	**galya.georgieva@nrg-ngo.com**
	Animus Association Foundation	Providing various trainings, workshops and awareness-raising activities on GBV to distinct target groups.	**100,000**	**100,000**	**animus@animusassociation.org**
	Open Bulgaria	Implementing the project "Psychological Support for Ukrainian Refugees in Bulgaria" which provides psychological support for women who have suffered from violence, emphasizing trauma recovery and psychological rehabilitation. Establishing support groups, fostering the development of the creative potential through art and meditation practices. Providing legal support for those facing discrimination, rights violations, or abuse, along with training to prevent such issues.	**5,300**	**5,900**	**bgopen4you@gmail.com**

Sector	Partner	Short Activity Description	Amount required for 2025 USD	Amount required for 2026 USD	Contact
	Ravda Assistance Community	Providing group and individual consultations for women through several stages. Providing individual consultations with a psychologist focusing on psychological rehabilitation and self-protection, including knowledge of conflict resolution, for children who have survived physical violence, sexual violence, emotional abuse, or bullying. Providing psychological aid to mothers with children who fled the war in Ukraine and have become victims of rape, violence, and aggression.	**3,300**	**3,000**	**maryplash444@gmail.com**
	UNHCR	Enhancing efforts to prevent and mitigate GBV by expanding cooperation and capacity-building with actors; ensuring refugees have access to these services, regardless of their nationality or legal status. Collaborating with partner organizations to expand activities focused on women's empowerment, the creation of safe spaces, and the development of identification and referral networks, at the non-governmental level. Supporting the capacity and activities of refugee and women-led organizations in gender sensitization and GBV prevention and response.	**551,400**	**551,400**	**rodrigun@unhcr.org**
	UNICEF	Providing comprehensive protection services for refugee children and caregivers, with a strong emphasis on mitigating, preventing, and responding to GBV. Enhancing local capacity to identify and address GBV risks, ensuring safe access to services such as psychosocial support and case management, and integrating GBV risk mitigation into child protection and education services. Awareness raising on GBV risks and available services, while building the capacity of national and local authorities to respond effectively to GBV.	**200,000**	**50,000**	**lvoynova@unicef.org**
Education	Aid for Ukraine	Providing Bulgarian and English language courses to enhance communication skills and facilitate better engagement within the community. Providing educational programs for children aged 1.5 to 3 years, focusing on foundational skills and socialization. Establishing a preschool program for children aged 3 to 5 years, promoting early learning and developmental milestones. Implementing pre-school programs for children aged 5 to 7 years to prepare them for formal education and enhance their readiness for school. Providing creative workshops and activities, support, mentorship, and educational opportunities, dance and physical education classes.	**210,000**	**240,000**	**info@uaid.org.ua**
	Association "Big and Small Dreams House"	Developing and utilizing the initiative 'Eco Friendships: Bulgaria and Ukraine Together for the Environment', aiming to integrate and bring closer Ukrainian and Bulgarian families who share values related to environmental protection. Providing Bulgarian language courses with an economic and financial focus. Organizing the Social Workshop "Dream House", engaging participants in work activities and educational opportunities.	**34,000**	**34,000**	**o.irzhytskaya@dreamshouse.org**
	Bulgarian Center for Slavic Culture and Spiritual Development	Expanding activities in the cultural center for the integration of Ukrainians in Bulgaria through cultural and educational programs. Offering an Arts School where participants can develop their creative potential through various activities. Providing financial literacy training, oratory skills training and basic digital education and internet safety courses, as well as English language courses.	**22,690**	**25,950**	**kulturabguacenter@gmail.com**
	Council for Refugee Women in Bulgaria	Ensuring access to education for refugee children by providing educational assistance through social workers to 210 school-age children from vulnerable families.	**47,191**	**47,191**	**l.awanis@crw-bg.org**
	Dokova & Dokov for Future Foundation	Providing comprehensive educational support for early childhood development, inclusive education, and reducing dropouts, and MHPSS for refugee children, including those with special needs. Providing Bulgarian language support using special methodologies, including for those with special needs (ages 3 to 7). Conducting positive parenting support groups with a psychologist. Organizing pre-primary education activities, including those with special needs.	**145,000**	**130,000**	**ruzha@dokovi.bg**

Sector	Partner	Short Activity Description	Amount required for 2025 USD	Amount required for 2026 USD	Contact
	Ravda Assistance Community	Organizing cultural-educational sessions that explore Bulgarian traditions, history, and customs, helping foster understanding and connection between the refugee and host communities. Collaborating with the Academy for Teenagers "New Generation" to offer a range of educational activities which could include financial literacy, cybersecurity, acting school, and English language courses.	**7,200**	**8,000**	**maryplash444@gmail.com**
	Svitlyachok	Assisting Ukrainian refugees in adapting to a new country by providing education, early development, and training for preschool children. Designing and implementing a variety of programs encompassing creative, recreational, and sports activities, tailored to stimulate the children's imagination, promote physical health, and encourage social interaction, all within a safe and supportive setting.	**46,000**	**42,000**	**svitulkabg@ukr.net**
	IOM	Purchasing educational materials for children divided into age groups (3-7;7-11;12-17) to support conducive learning environment.	**62,000**	**60,000**	**msamuilova@iom.int**
	UNHCR	Promoting school enrolment; supporting school-age children and their parents in adapting to the Bulgarian school system. Furthering cooperation with schools; addressing both structural and non-structural barriers to school registration and attendance. Expanding good practices, such as the Teachers' Academy and other forms of support for teachers working with refugee children. Providing cash assistance, in specific cases, to support primary education enrolment and retention. Advocating for the removal of barriers that prevent refugees from accessing university education on equal terms.	**1,100,000**	**1,100,000**	**rodrigun@unhcr.org**
	UNICEF	Strengthening the education system to ensure inclusive, high-quality education for refugee children, though capacity building for early childhood development and education professionals to foster an inclusive, learner-centered environment, combat disinformation, and prevent bullying. Supporting the enrolment of refugee children into the national education system through formal and non-formal language and catch-up classes. Enhancing access to early childhood education, providing additional learning support to at-risk students, and fostering social inclusion through skills-building and engagement initiatives.	**1,860,848**	**756,691**	**lvoynova@unicef.org**