

Inter-Agency Newsletter

REFUGEE COORDINATION FORUM | ROMANIA

191,808 Temporary Protection holders in Romania
(as of 23 February 2025)

Men 65,749 (34%)	Women 72,652 (38%)	Boys 27,354 (14%)	Girls 26,053 (14%)
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8.4 million border crossings from
Ukraine and Moldova since February 2022

948,946 third-country nationals arrived
in Romania from Ukraine and Moldova

7.5 million Ukrainians arrived
in Romania from Ukraine and
Moldova

REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN 2025 APPEAL SUMMARY

42 TOTAL APPEALING
PARTNERS

Current funding needs

Total Appealed Budget

\$82.8 million

CASH
INTERVENTIONS **\$12.1M**

	Appealed
Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion	\$16.5 M
Protection	\$16.2M
Basic Needs	\$15.7M
Public Health and MHPSS	\$10.1M
Education	\$9.3M
Child Protection	\$8.7M
Gender-based Violence	\$6.3M

2025 Achievements



Support for Public
Authorities

149 personnel trained



Strengthening
Social Cohesion

945 participants from both refugee and
host communities in initiatives and
events



Romanian courses
for integration

1,400 people provided with
Romanian languages classes

People reached by sector



Protection
7,065



Education
616



Basic Needs
9,638



Child Protection
3,756



Health and Nutrition
3,290



Cash Assistance
507



Gender-Based Violence
1,950



MHPSS
2,154



Livelihoods and Socio-
Economic Inclusion
2,154

Operational context

UN agencies and NGOs work together in support of the national refugee response under the framework of the Refugee Response Plan (RRP), through the Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF), and sectoral working groups. The 2025-2026 Romania RRP is aligned with the Government National Plan of Measures (NPM) for the protection and socio-economic inclusion of refugees from Ukraine.

Since 24 February 2022, more than 6.25 million people from Ukraine have sought refuge across Europe. As of 23 February 2025, the Romanian General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI) reported that 191,808 Ukrainians and third country nationals obtained temporary protection in Romania, which provides access to healthcare, education, and the labour market.

On February 21, the Inter-Agency Coordination Platform in Romania, in collaboration with the Chancellery of the Prime Minister and the Department for Emergency Situations (DSU), marked three years of the refugee response in Romania and launched the 2025-2026 Refugee Response Plan (RRP) at an event held at the Odeon Theatre in Bucharest. Over one hundred participants attended, representing the Presidential Administration, government authorities, the Diplomatic Corps, and RRP partners. The RRP for Romania is appealing for USD 155 million to support the proposed activities of 42 partners, including UN agencies, national and international NGOs, and refugee-led organizations, to meet the needs of refugees in Romania in 2025 and 2026. Keynote remarks were delivered by a State Counsellor at the Chancellery of the Prime Minister, the UNHCR Representative and Inter-Agency Refugee Coordinator, and an elderly refugee from Ukraine hosted at the Nicolina Centre in Iași. Ambassadors from France, Germany, Japan, Poland, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Ukraine also delivered remarks. Additionally, interventions were made by the ambassadors of Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Greece, and Sweden, as well as representatives from the embassies of Italy, the Netherlands, and the European Commission. All diplomats reaffirmed their countries' support for refugees, acknowledging and thanking the Government of Romania and the Romanian people for welcoming and assisting refugees from Ukraine over the past three years. The Ukrainian Community Association in Mediaș (ACUM) delivered remarks on behalf of refugee-led organizations in Romania. The President of the National Youth Organization NGO spoke on behalf of the 42 RRP partners, and the UNICEF Representative addressed the gathering on behalf of UN agencies in Romania. Additional interventions were made by several RRP partners and Romanian authorities, including the National Agency for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men (ANES), the General Inspectorate for Immigration (IGI), the Association of Ukrainian Teachers in Romania, Commit Global, Habitat for Humanity, Jesuit Refugee Service Romania, MALVA, Necuvinte, Novapolis,

the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR), Terre des Hommes, Save the Children Romania, WHO, and World Vision Romania.



All organizations and officials expressed their support and commitment to helping refugees from Ukraine achieve self-reliance in Romania, supporting Romanian host communities, and advocating for sustainable peace in Ukraine. The Secretary of State and Head of the Department for Emergency Situations delivered the closing remarks, emphasizing the need for solidarity, calling for lasting peace in Ukraine, and highlighting Romania's efforts to provide refuge and alleviate suffering. The event served to renew the commitment and collaboration among government authorities, the donor and diplomatic community, and RRP partners towards the inclusion of refugees from Ukraine and support for Romanian host communities.

On Monday, 24 February, the Prefect of Brasov County, Mihai Cătălin Vășii, chaired the Working Group for the Inclusion of Refugees in Brasov County, together with UNHCR. The first Brasov coordination meeting of the year brought together over 20 participants from 17 organizations with focused discussions on refugees from Ukraine's access to education, social assistance, the labour market and healthcare. It provided a platform to exchange experiences and good practices from the refugee response in the county, and to address some of the larger issues that are hindering refugees' inclusion. The Working Group will meet on a quarterly basis with dedicated thematic discussions scheduled in between to enhance refugees' inclusion prospects while strengthening collaboration between the various actors working in the response. Supporting local coordination networks is an integral part of localization and aligns with the strategic objectives of the Refugee Response Plan.

Spotlight story - RRP partner Ateliere Fără Frontiere

Ateliere Fără Frontiere is an accredited employment services provider offering refugees employment opportunities, counselling, and support to develop the skills they need to find stable employment.

In 2024, over 450 people benefited from career counselling, and more than 200 refugees have received support in their socio-professional integration process. Among them, over 100 have successfully found employment in various fields, demonstrating the positive impact of the program. The association also conducts Romanian language courses and has supported over 560 refugees with a dedicated language program focused on supporting access to employment. They managed to gather a close community of Ukrainian people, who share advice and work opportunities with each other.

Dmytro, a 41-year-old man from Kharkiv, arrived in Romania last year. Initially he struggled to find work, however, after three months, with the support of Ateliere Fără Frontiere, which introduced him to potential employers, he found a stable job at a furniture factory in Ilfov where he feels appreciated for his efforts and the valuable input he brings. To further support his integration, Dmytro will start learning Romanian language with the help of Ateliere Fără Frontiere.



Dmytro states that –thanks to the support of Ateliere Fără Frontiere – he feels more confident, empowered and that he is on the right path to take control of his life here in Romania.

Through all these efforts, the association has made an important contribution to the socio-economic integration of refugees and to building a more inclusive and equitable society.

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

In February, Protection Working Group (PWG) partners advanced key initiatives to align Romania with EU asylum policies, enhance legal and social services, and promote community-based protection for refugees.

Supporting Legal Reform and Judicial Engagement

On 27 February, UNHCR met with the Superior Council of Magistracy (CSM) to discuss how the EU Pact on Asylum and Migration will impact Romania's judiciary. The dialogue focused on ensuring that national legislation reflects key provisions of the Pact and that the quality of the asylum system is strengthened. UNHCR committed to providing a summary of relevant legal provisions, while CSM proposed creating an internal technical working group to analyze the Pact and recommend implementation measures. The engagement underscores the essential role of judicial institutions in shaping effective asylum governance.

Strategic Planning for Protection and Access

A day earlier, on 26 February, the Protection Working Group held a strategic planning workshop attended by 30 representatives from government institutions, NGOs, and international organizations. Discussions centered around improving territorial access and documentation, securing rights for persons with specific needs, and expanding community-based protection mechanisms. The workshop resulted in a roadmap of targeted actions to reinforce legal frameworks and enhance refugee support networks throughout the country.

Clarifying Social Benefits and Procedures

In response to challenges faced by refugees in Ilfov county when trying to access social benefits, UNHCR hosted an online information session on 5 February, with 23 refugees in attendance. The session explained key aspects of Emergency Ordinance No. 96/2024, which outlines humanitarian support for foreign nationals and stateless persons fleeing the war in Ukraine. Topics included child allowance, maternity support, disability benefits, and minimum inclusion income, along with healthcare rights and steps for accessing medical services. Participants included temporary protection holders, local authorities, and the World Health Organization.

Legal and Integration Support for Refugees

Meanwhile, Save the Children Romania continued to deliver essential legal and integration services to 351 adults, primarily Ukrainian refugee women, through its Counselling Hubs and Integration Centres located in Bucharest, Baia Mare, Galați, Iași, and Suceava. These centres provided legal counselling, support with social service applications, and employment guidance, helping refugees navigate Romania's integration system with greater confidence and access to rights. Through these combined efforts, Romania is making meaningful progress in strengthening legal protections, supporting informed access to services, and building inclusive pathways for refugee integration.

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

Efforts to ensure the protection, well-being, and integration of Ukrainian refugee children in Romania are steadily advancing, thanks to coordinated actions from national authorities and humanitarian partners.

As of February 2025, a total of 38,104 children have been registered in the PRIMERO case management system, a significant step in strengthening child protection services under the supervision of NAPCRA. This growing database enhances national capacity to monitor and respond to the needs of vulnerable children.

In support of emotional well-being, UNHCR and WorldVision Romania co-hosted a painting workshop on 4 February, providing a safe space for refugee children to express themselves and build resilience through art. Creative activities such as these play an important role in fostering healing and emotional stability.

At the same time, Save the Children Romania continued its frontline work with refugee families, reaching 481 children in Bucharest, Baia Mare, Galați, Iași, and Suceava. Their interventions included counselling services, case management, and parenting sessions, offering both children and caregivers essential psychosocial and practical support.

Focused specifically on the needs of unaccompanied and separated children, the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR) provided crucial assistance to minors under the legal guardianship of DGASPC Sector 2, Bucharest. Through interpretation services and accompaniment, CNRR facilitated family reunification and reintegration processes, ensuring effective communication between children, their case managers, and legal representatives.

Through these collaborative efforts, humanitarian partners are helping refugee children navigate the challenges of displacement while laying the foundation for a safer, more stable future.

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

Throughout February, humanitarian partners in Romania advanced targeted initiatives to enhance safety, resilience, and empowerment among refugee women and girls. These efforts focused on gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, psychosocial support, and skills-building for protection and self-confidence.

The GBV Sub-Working Group convened on 10 February to shape its 2025 work plan, prioritizing improved service coordination, data sharing, and the development of integrated case management systems. One promising tool under discussion was the Victim Navigator model, which aims to provide personalized, survivor-centered support. Strengthening inter-agency collaboration remains essential for ensuring timely and effective responses for women and girls at risk of violence.

In support of prevention and empowerment, practical workshops led by Anais, the Sensiblu Foundation, and Plan International trained 40 refugee women and girls on boundary-setting and risk recognition through engaging sessions on 7 and 28 February. Similarly, UNHCR and KATYA Hub hosted online sessions on 11 February, encouraging skill-building and gender equality through digital outreach.

Access to psychosocial support was significantly expanded by the Sensiblu Foundation, which conducted 37 sessions for 423 refugees in Bucharest, Constanța, Râmnicu Vâlcea, and Suceava. The foundation also provided 50 hours of case management counselling for six individuals, addressing more complex support needs. As part of the Orange Day Campaign, Sensiblu and UNHCR organized a session in Constanța on 25 February, where 14 Ukrainian refugee women explored psychological violence prevention through interactive case studies and group discussions.

The Safe Space for Women and Girls initiative, implemented by NGO Necuvinte, offered group psychological support to 32 Ukrainian refugees at the Edmond Nicolau refugee centre in Bucharest. Sessions combined guided imagery, mindfulness, and experiential art therapy, helping participants manage trauma and build emotional resilience. Additionally, two violence prevention awareness workshops were held for newly arrived refugees, providing crucial information on early warning signs, legal protections, and available support services. Participants reported increased confidence and greater awareness of their rights and options.

Through these joint efforts, humanitarian actors are working to create a safer, more informed, and empowered environment for displaced women and girls across Romania.

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

As of February, 23,324 Ukrainian children are officially enrolled in the Romanian education system, with 87% as students and 13% as audients. However, only 32% regularly attend classes, highlighting the need for stronger support systems. To address these challenges, RRP partners and education-focused organizations have been actively working to improve school enrolment, language learning, and social inclusion for refugee children and their families.

Bridging Educational Gaps Through Learning Hubs and Counselling

Several organizations have played a crucial role in helping refugee children integrate into the education system. UNICEF, in partnership with HOLTIS, JRS Romania, and Step-by-Step, provided complementary education and parental support across major refugee-hosting areas, including Bucharest, Braşov, Cluj, Constanţa, Tulcea, and Vâlcea. Their efforts included operating 16 play and learning hubs, creating safe and engaging spaces for early education.

To support refugee families with school enrolment, diploma recognition, and language learning, CNRR offered education counselling through its regional offices in six cities. In February, they distributed 500 Romanian language learning manuals, developed in collaboration with UNHCR, to the National Youth Foundation in Bucharest, facilitating adult language acquisition and socio-economic integration.

After-School Support and Language Learning

Education beyond the classroom is key to helping refugee children adapt and succeed. JRS Romania provided after-school educational support for 244 children at five learning centres in Bucharest, Braşov, and Constanţa, and for 200 children at Pipera Hub and Romexpo. A team of 21 teachers and two psychologists offered personalized learning assistance, working closely with school counsellors. Additionally, their AMIF-supported project reached over 300 children and 350 adults, offering enrolment support, social benefits access, and language courses, including online Romanian language classes for 500 children and preschool support for 60 young learners in Bucharest.

Similarly, Save the Children Romania provided afterschool and remedial support for 88 schoolchildren and 99 preschoolers, alongside Romanian and English language classes for 364 children. Their initiatives ensured academic assistance, cultural inclusion, and access to formal education for refugee and vulnerable children.

Other organizations focused on intercultural learning and socio-educational support. Terre des Hommes conducted life skills and intercultural activities for 32 children in Bucharest, while World Vision Romania supported 300 refugee children through four socio-educational centres, offering homework assistance, remedial classes, language lessons, and non-formal education such as arts, sports, and logic games. World Vision also collaborated with schools in Constanţa and Suceava to enhance Ukrainian children's inclusion and marked the three-year anniversary of the Ukraine conflict with events promoting resilience and hope.

Advocacy and Policy Support for Long-Term Integration

Beyond direct educational support, RRP partners continued advocating for the long-term integration of refugee children into Romania's education system. Efforts included technical assistance to national and local authorities, ensuring inclusive policies, Romanian language courses, extracurricular activities, and mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS).

A key player in this effort, UNICEF, worked closely with the School Inspectorate of the Municipality of Bucharest (ISMB) and the Education Desk at Romexpo, helping Ukrainian families navigate school enrolment, study equivalency procedures, and Romanian language certification. These initiatives have helped more children transition smoothly into formal education.

With thousands of Ukrainian children relying on ongoing educational support, collaboration between humanitarian organizations, government agencies, and local communities remains essential in creating sustainable, long-term solutions. As we move forward, ensuring access to quality education, language integration, and social inclusion will remain a priority for RRP partners.

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

Access to primary healthcare remains a top priority for refugee communities in Romania. On 8 February, WHO Romania convened a strategic network meeting in Brașov, bringing together family doctors and key stakeholders, including representatives from the Ministry of Health, the National Health Insurance House (CNAS), the College of Physicians, and the Public Health Directorate (DSP) Brașov. This meeting served as an important platform for WHO-supported family doctors to share their progress, achievements, and challenges in providing healthcare services to Ukrainian refugees. A major accomplishment highlighted during the meeting was the provision of over 165,000 medical services, the successful reimbursement of covered treatments, and the registration of more than 3,000 refugees.

However, the meeting also highlighted persistent barriers—including limited patient registration, bureaucratic bottlenecks, and technical difficulties with the CNAS registration platform—underlining the need for continued administrative streamlining and digital improvements.

To further enhance healthcare infrastructure, WHO Romania provided vaccine refrigerators and data loggers to Public Health Directorates in Brașov and Timiș, improving cold chain systems and immunization services for both Ukrainian and Romanian populations. Additionally, WHO continues to offer stipends to selected family doctor clinics in seven counties—Brașov, Bucharest, Cluj, Constanța, Galați, Sibiu, and Suceava—ensuring uninterrupted medical services. In February alone, these clinics delivered 543 consultations, including 34 essential childhood vaccinations.

To help refugees overcome language barriers in medical settings, WHO Romania also operates a free telephone interpretation hotline, which facilitated 54 translation services in February, including during emergency consultations.

Strengthening Reproductive Health and Mental Well-being

Complementing the work of family doctors, the Independent Midwives Association (AMI) played a critical role in reaching refugees with a wide range of health-related support, including family doctor registration, neonatal and postnatal care, sexual and reproductive health, and family planning. Through its hotline and online communication channels, AMI supported 317 unique beneficiaries in February, helping them navigate essential services.

Mental health support remains another vital pillar of refugee response. WHO cultural mediators provided 63 individual counselling sessions, led seven group therapy sessions involving 122 participants, and hosted art therapy workshops for 69 refugees, fostering emotional healing and social cohesion.

Collaborative Action for Inclusive Healthcare Systems

On 18–19 February, Bucharest hosted the WHO-IOM-EU4HEALTH Intercountry Workshop, bringing together refugee-receiving countries to explore how displaced healthcare professionals can be integrated into national systems. Discussions focused on credential recognition, overcoming language barriers, and improving healthcare access and vaccination coverage. The workshop highlighted the importance of cross-border learning and collaboration in strengthening refugee health systems.

Mental Health and Social Inclusion: Community-Based Approaches

In Timișoara, AidRom and UNHCR launched a series of resilience-building workshops designed to support refugees' emotional well-being. On 11 February, one such workshop used stained glass painting as a therapeutic tool, helping seven Ukrainian refugees process trauma and share personal stories in a safe and creative space.

Save the Children Romania also led a wide-reaching effort to promote mental health and social inclusion in cities such as Bucharest, Baia Mare, Galați, Iași, and Suceava. In February, they delivered MHPSS services to 544 Ukrainian children, 85 non-Ukrainian children, and 237 Ukrainian adults, including individual psychological counselling for 115 individuals. These activities fostered peer relationships, enhanced emotional resilience, and supported integration into local communities.

Meanwhile, Terre des Hommes continued to provide psychosocial support, life skills training, and intercultural learning through its Resilience Innovation Facilities (RIFs). In February, 112 children received individual and group mental health support, 106 participated in resilience-building activities, and 23 adults received specialized consultations.

The organization also helped 45 children access health, legal, or social welfare services, ensuring that families received holistic support. Meanwhile, Terre des Hommes continued to provide psychosocial support, life skills training, and intercultural learning through its Resilience Innovation Facilities (RIFs). In February, 112 children received individual and group mental health support, 106 participated in resilience-building activities, and 23 adults received specialized consultations. The organization also helped 45 children access health, legal, or social welfare services, ensuring that families received holistic support.

Looking Ahead: A Shared Commitment to Refugee Health and Inclusion

February's efforts underscore a strong, multi-sectoral commitment to meeting the evolving healthcare and mental health needs of refugees in Romania. Through coordinated actions and sustained engagement from partners like WHO Romania, AMI, Save the Children, Terre des Hommes, AidRom, and UNHCR, the foundation for long-term well-being, inclusion, and resilience continues to grow. As these initiatives evolve, collaboration with national and local authorities will remain key in building a more inclusive, responsive, and equitable healthcare system for all.

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

In February, humanitarian organizations continued their dedicated efforts to meet the urgent needs of refugees in

Romania, providing essential aid and support services to thousands of displaced individuals.

Challenges in Health System Integration

To respond to immediate needs, IOM Romania distributed 5,918 hygiene items to 490 refugees in Bucharest, Galați, and Iași, while also providing social vouchers to 563 individuals in Cluj-Napoca, Târgu Mureș, and other cities to help cover daily essentials.

Save the Children Romania supported 896 Ukrainian refugees by delivering 1,069 non-food items, including hygiene kits, sanitary products, and baby supplies, in Bucharest, Baia Mare, Galați, Iași, and Suceava.

At the Romexpo community centre in Bucharest, UNHCR, in partnership with the General Directorate of Social Assistance of the Municipality of Bucharest (DGASMB), provided hygiene kits and baby diapers to 1,599 refugees and host community members. In total, UNHCR and partners distributed an impressive 19,379 non-food items, including mattresses, towels, pillows, hygiene kits, and clothing, reaching 3,577 refugees across Romania.

Winterization Support: Responding to Cold Weather

As temperatures dropped, UNHCR expanded its winterization assistance, enrolling 231 Ukrainian families in its cash assistance programme. This support helped families meet essential needs such as heating, clothing, and shelter, while reducing exposure to protection risks during the harsh winter months.

Social Services and Protection: Tailored Family Support

Recognizing the importance of social documentation in accessing services, NGO 4Change assisted 21 refugee families with comprehensive support. Each family received a personalized social assistance file and a tailored action plan, designed to facilitate access to specialized services and longer-term integration.

Investing in Education: Keeping Children in School

Education remained a priority, with Save the Children Romania ensuring that 101 refugee children could attend school regularly by providing transportation and supporting 20 children with daily school lunches to help them stay engaged in learning.

Thanks to the combined efforts of humanitarian partners, thousands of refugees and host community members across Romania continue to receive the support they need to live with safety, dignity, and hope. These coordinated actions underscore a strong and ongoing commitment to meeting both urgent needs and longer-term resilience.

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

Efforts to support the socio-economic inclusion of refugees in Romania gained momentum, as partners continue to remove key barriers to employment and education.

Building on a 2023 awareness session with the National Centre for the Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas (CNRED), UNHCR recently met with the institution to further advance the recognition of Ukrainian diplomas and studies in Romania. As of early 2024, CNRED has received 144 applications for the recognition of university diplomas and 35 for high school diplomas, with the highest demand in IT, computer science, engineering, languages, education, and economics. These efforts are essential for refugees seeking to re-enter their professional fields in Romania. UNHCR is committed to continuing its close collaboration with CNRED by sharing information on available services and co-developing materials to support national inclusion strategies.

In parallel, Save the Children Romania is addressing key integration challenges through language education and employment counselling. In February 2025, 206 Ukrainian

adults took part in Romanian language classes, while 126 joined English courses. The organization also organized group sessions for 18 Ukrainian refugees focused on employment pathways and accessing public services. This comprehensive approach, which addresses not only job readiness but also childcare and social barriers, is helping refugee families build sustainable futures and shaping effective public policies for inclusion.

World Vision Romania is also making significant strides through a multi-city livelihoods initiative active in Bucharest, Braşov, Constanţa, Cluj, Iaşi, and Suceava. The project offers a range of services including job counselling, employment guidance, and employer orientation, reaching over 157 refugees to date. Participants receive support with CV preparation, job platform navigation, and career planning. Importantly, the programme also includes entrepreneurship courses, empowering refugees to pursue self-employment and financial independence.

Together, these initiatives are paving the way for long-term refugee self-reliance in Romania—offering practical tools, tailored guidance, and real opportunities for meaningful participation in the country's social and economic life.

Serhii's story - From manager to jack-of-all-trades



Serhii was once a successful manager in Ukraine, leading teams, optimizing workflows, and driving results for major companies. He had built a stable life for himself and his family—his wife and their three children. But when war broke out, everything changed. Forced to leave their home behind, they sought refuge in Romania, settling in the city of Iaşi.

Adjusting to life in a new country was not easy, especially when it came to finding a job in his field without knowing the local language. However, Serhii had something that set him apart—his skill with his hands. From assembling furniture and installing appliances to handling electrical and plumbing work, he had always been good at fixing things.

Realizing that these services were in high demand among both Ukrainians and Romanians, he started helping friends and neighbours. What began as small favours quickly turned into a real business opportunity. Encouraged by increasing demand, he decided to take the next step.

Thanks to a livelihoods project implemented by RRP partner World Vision Romania together with the Braşov Metropolitan Agency for Sustainable Development (AMDDDB) and funded by UNHCR, Serhii gained valuable knowledge about starting a business in Romania. After participating in and winning the project's grant competition, he secured the support needed to start his own company, Handy Fix SRL, in December 2024.

Today, Serhii is the go-to expert for household repairs, electrical work, plumbing, furniture assembly, minor car repairs, moving services, and more. His business follows a simple yet effective principle: one specialist for all tasks, saving clients the hassle of finding multiple professionals.

But Serhii's ambitions go further. He envisions expanding Handy Fix SRL into a trusted company, hiring skilled workers, and offering a wider range of home maintenance services. Through hard work and dedication, he is not only securing a stable future for his family but also creating opportunities for others in his community.

Protection and Inclusion Challenges for Refugees: Advocacy and Action Needed

Access to Accommodation Support and Social Benefits

Refugees continue to face difficulties in securing lump sum payments for accommodation under Emergency Ordinance No. 96/2024, following the withdrawal of previous support programs. Delays in payments remain a pressing issue, with outstanding dues from mid-2024 yet to be settled. The Department of Emergency Situations (DSU) has committed to clearing these payments by the end of March, with an extension of the program expected. Meanwhile, barriers to social benefits persist due to complex documentation requirements and language challenges, underscoring the need for sustained advocacy and assistance.

Community Consultations Reveal Urgent Concerns

Meetings organized by CNRR and UNHCR in Constanța brought to light key issues affecting refugees. Community mobilizers and refugees raised alarms over labour rights violations, uncertainty regarding post-temporary protection status, inadequate services for children with disabilities, and limited psychological support. These discussions highlight the need for strengthened protective measures and targeted interventions to address systemic gaps.

Challenges for Older Refugees and Women at Risk

A recent non-food item (NFI) distribution event with Caritas in Iași provided insights into the struggles faced by older Ukrainian refugees. Many remain disconnected from online communication and are deeply concerned about the expiration of temporary protection and its implications for residency and healthcare access beyond 2026. Additionally, findings from Necuvinte and the Sensiblu Foundation reveal that vulnerable refugee women seeking housing continue to face significant risks of coercion, exploitation, and abuse. While shelter centres offer better risk assessment and support mechanisms, women in private accommodations encounter greater challenges in reporting abuse and accessing assistance, exacerbated by financial instability and language barriers.

Gaps in Child Protection and Healthcare Access

The Child Protection Sub-Working Group has identified the urgent need for safe spaces that foster children's psychosocial well-being and resilience. Limited access to translators and translation services further complicates refugee families' ability to navigate Romania's healthcare and social service systems. Many struggle to understand the country's health insurance system, leading to denial of insured medical care and emergency services due to technical errors. Strengthening access to interpreters and clearer health system navigation support is crucial to addressing these barriers.

Education System Barriers and the Need for Integration Support

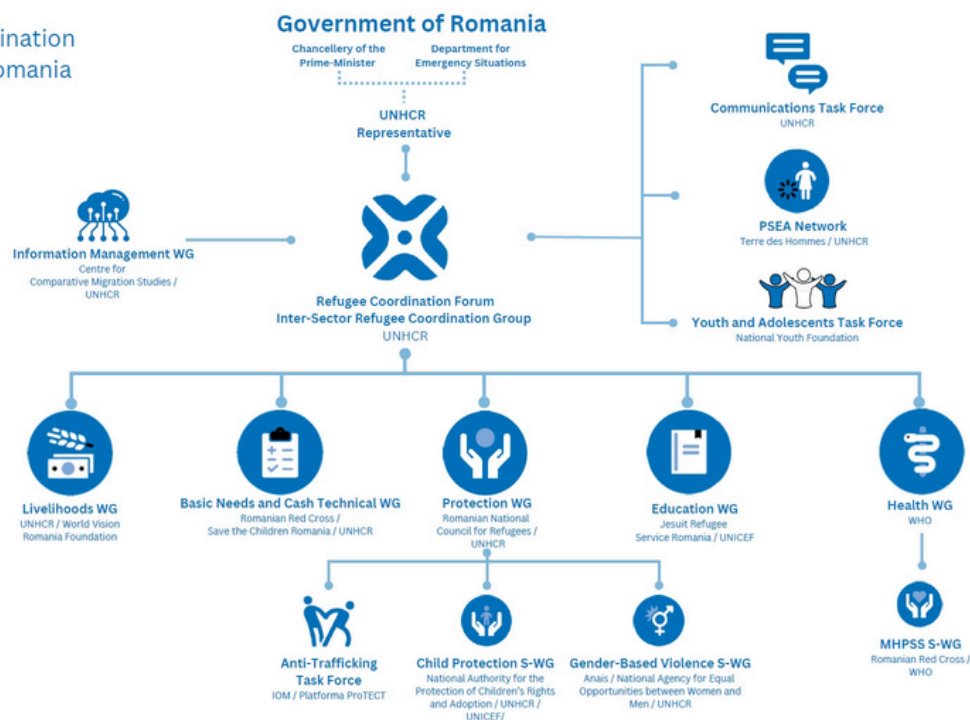
The Education Working Group reports significant obstacles in integrating Ukrainian refugee children into the Romanian education system. Many children struggle to transition from audient to pupil status due to language barriers and complex study equivalency requirements. The lack of Ukrainian school mediators and social educators further limits essential support. Additionally, refugee children are required to pass national exams under the same conditions as Romanian students despite insufficient language proficiency. To address these issues, working group members are collaborating with national authorities to identify viable solutions.

Strengthening Advocacy and Support Networks

The challenges outlined above highlight the pressing need for continued engagement between humanitarian organizations, government authorities, and civil society. Addressing barriers to accommodation, social benefits, healthcare, child protection, and education will require coordinated efforts to ensure that refugees receive the support they need for stability and long-term integration. Strengthening advocacy and expanding targeted services remain key priorities in advancing refugee protection and inclusion in Romania.

Working in partnership

Refugee Coordination Structure in Romania



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

[ADPARE](#) | [Asociația Moșelor Independente](#) | [ASSOC](#) | Association of Ukrainian Teachers in Romania | [Ateliere Fără Frontiere](#) | [City Makers](#) | [Civic Rădăuți Association](#) | [CNRR](#) | [Commit Global](#) | [Drumul Vieții](#) | [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](#)