

Romania

September 2024

UNHCR **supports the government’s response** to protect and include refugees in Romania through initiatives fostering inclusion and self-reliance, protection services, counselling towards inclusion, and targeted assistance.

Romania granted **access to social benefits for refugees from Ukraine**, through the Emergency Ordinance No. 96 on 28 June 2024, thereby addressing the needs of vulnerable refugees, to the same extent as Romanian citizens.

UNHCR leads the **inter-agency coordination**, supporting the national response, with 37 Refugee Response Plan partners ensuring alignment and synergy with the Government’s policy and localization.

POPULATION STATISTICS (as of mid-2024)*

Refugees	166,849
Asylum-seekers	629
Stateless persons	291

Top three countries of origin*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Ukraine	162,180	Syrian Arab Republic	116
Syrian Arab Republic	2,532	Bangladesh	74
Somalia	598	India	69

*UNHCR Mid-Year Statistical Report 2024 and UNHCR data finder

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of 31 July 2024, **162,180 refugees from Ukraine** have obtained temporary protection in Romania. Over the past months, the number of Temporary Protection documents issued has increased to 3,418 per month.

Coordination and advocacy: UNHCR coordinates with authorities on protection and inclusion of refugees from Ukraine—including to social benefits—and enhances their access to livelihoods. With partners and UN agencies, UNHCR supports the national response and preparedness and identifies relevant areas of advocacy and cooperation.

Protection services and support to the most vulnerable: UNHCR and 11 NGO partners support vulnerable groups in 17 counties through child protection, prevention of gender-based violence (9GBV), legal services, self-reliance and empowerment, as well as refugee community outreach.

Vulnerability Scorecard: UNHCR and partners developed and use recalibrated a vulnerability scorecard to identify the most vulnerable refugees for cash for protection programme. It can be used by various stakeholders for a targeted assistance.

HIGHLIGHTS

Life-saving assistance

As of August 2024, UNHCR has enrolled over 16,400 refugees for **cash assistance** as a transitional safety net measure and distributed over 67,600 **core relief items** (CRIs), including blankets, bedding, clothing and hygiene packs.

Protection information and counselling

In 2024, UNHCR and partners have provided 18,000 refugees with **information and counselling** in person or by phone. In addition, some 21,900 refugees are regularly reached through social media dedicated channels, including UNHCR’s Telegram channel, amplifying UNHCR’s messages to nearly 80,000 refugees.

Delivering together

UNHCR hosts nine partners and national authorities at the **RomExpo** integrated service hub in Bucharest, visited by over 200 refugees daily. The hub serves as a main “one-stop shop” for refugees. UNHCR also supports the nearby Donations Centre run by the Municipality of Bucharest, visited by some 500 refugees daily, as well as similar centres run in Braşov, Constanta, Galati, Cluj and Iasi.



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Romanian Language Course for Ukrainian Refugees

UNHCR is supporting 2,000 refugees from Ukraine with Romanian language courses to help them in finding new opportunities within the community as well as accessing the labour market.

Key Priorities

- **Protection:** UNHCR engages with authorities and partners to promote refugee protection, including identification and timely referral of people with specific needs, [legal counselling](#), and tailored interventions for vulnerable people with and for whom UNHCR works. UNHCR also provides authorities and partners with [technical support](#) and [capacity-building](#) on protection, and in the asylum system.
- **Socio-economic inclusion and self-reliance:** UNHCR facilitates socio-economic inclusion of refugees through [language courses](#), [employment counselling](#), [mobilizing employers](#) and organizing [job fairs](#) in collaboration with the national employment agency (ANOFM) and partners. So far in 2024, UNHCR and partners provided some 6,590 refugees with livelihoods and employment services.
- **Communication with communities:** UNHCR enhances two-way feedback mechanisms with refugee communities by establishing a hotline, Telegram channel, protection counselling desks and complaint mechanisms. UNHCR also disseminates information through social media and its dedicated [HELP page](#).
- **Field presence:** UNHCR responds to the needs of refugees from Ukraine through its Field Offices in Galați and Suceava, and with its Field Presence in Constanta and Timișoara, and the main office in Bucharest, covering with partners 17 counties. UNHCR manages the Emergency Transit Centre for refugees in Timișoara, with guidance from national authorities.
- **Cash assistance:** To supplement government assistance, UNHCR implements cash programmes to support the most vulnerable refugees, reaching over 16,400 refugees in 2024, notably through [cash assistance for refugees with specific needs](#). Cash assistance provides a transitional safety net to the most vulnerable refugees, until their inclusion in the labour market or national social protection schemes.
- **Winterization:** UNHCR continues to support refugees' in the winter season through the distribution of core relief items (CRIs) including blankets, winter clothes, and sleeping bags. Since January 2024, UNHCR distributed over 67,600 CRIs to nearly 36,000 refugees.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs (particularly the General Inspectorate of Immigration, the General Inspectorate of the Border Police and the Department for Emergency Situations), as well as the Ministries of Labour and Social Solidarity, and Justice.
- **Inter-Agency and RRP:** UNHCR supports the government's national response plan by leading the Inter-Agency Coordination platform comprising 37 partners implementing humanitarian support for refugees from Ukraine, with a total financial requirement of US\$117 million.
- **External engagement:** UNHCR collaborates with civil society actors, media and academia to promote awareness on refugee rights and social cohesion.
- **Emergency Transit Centre (ETC):** The ETC in Timisoara was set up pursuant to a Tri-Partite Agreement concluded by the Government of Romania, UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and is a residential facility which can host up to 200 refugees in transit towards resettlement countries. Activities started in 2008, to provide temporary evacuation to Romania of persons in urgent need of international protection for onward resettlement.

Statelessness

- Romania is a party to both the 1954 and 1961 UN Conventions on Statelessness. UNHCR advocates for the setting of a statelessness status determination procedure with competent authorities, and for closing existing legal gaps on statelessness.

UNHCR Presence in Romania

Staff:

53 National Staff
 23 International Staff
 16 UN Volunteers
 6 Interns

Offices:

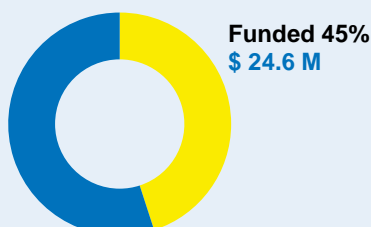
1 Branch Office in Bucharest
 2 Field Offices in Suceava and Galați
 2 Field Units in Constanta and Timișoara

Financial information (as of 30 September 2024)

Financial requirements

\$ 54.3 M

Funding Gap
 55%
 \$ 29.7 M



UNHCR is grateful for the support from our top government donors of unearmarked, softly earmarked, and earmarked funding:

Australia | Belgium | Denmark | France | Germany | Ireland | New Zealand | Netherlands | Norway | Republic of Korea | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | Sweden | Switzerland | United States of America

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