

# Romania

February 2025

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

Romania **granted refugees from Ukraine access to social benefits** through Emergency Ordinance No. 96 in June 2024, including child benefits, minimum income, disability allowance, social services, healthcare and access to employment

UNHCR leads the **inter-agency coordination**, supporting the national response, with 42 Refugee Response Plan partners ensuring alignment and synergy with the Government's policy and localization.

## POPULATION STATISTICS (as of mid-2024)\*

Refugees	<b>166,849</b>
Asylum-seekers	<b>629</b>
Stateless persons	<b>291</b>
Others of Concern	<b>179</b>

## Top three countries of origin\* Top three countries of origin\*

Refugees	Asylum-seekers
Ukraine <b>179,820</b>	Syrian Arab Republic <b>116</b>
Syrian Arab Republic <b>2,532</b>	Bangladesh <b>74</b>
Somalia <b>598</b>	India <b>69</b>

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

## UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of February 2025, over **179,820 refugees from Ukraine** have been recorded in Romania.

**Coordination and advocacy:** UNHCR coordinates with authorities on protection and inclusion of refugees from Ukraine—including to social benefits—and enhances their access to decent work, economic and financial inclusion. 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 9 NGO partners support vulnerable groups in 15 counties through child protection, support to survivors and victims of different forms of violence affecting especially women and children, (including sexual violence), legal services, self-reliance, and empowerment, as well as refugee community outreach.

**Vulnerability Scorecard:** UNHCR and partners developed and recalibrated a vulnerability scorecard to identify refugees most in need, for its cash programme. The scorecard was developed within the Inter-Agency setting in Romania with a shared methodology that take into consideration a large range of different vulnerability of refugees.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Life-saving assistance

In 2024 and 2025, UNHCR enrolled over 17,500 refugees for **cash assistance** as a transitional safety net measure and distributed 109,551 **core relief items** (CRIs), including blankets, bedding, clothing, and hygiene kits.

### Protection information and counselling

In 2024 and 2025, UNHCR and partners have provided 27,791 refugees with **information and counselling** in person or by phone. In addition, some 22,000 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** Community Centre in Bucharest, visited by over 250 refugees daily. The centre serves as a main "one-stop shop" for refugees. UNHCR is also hosting the social shop run by the Municipality of Bucharest.



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### Romanian Language Courses for Ukrainian Refugees

UNHCR is supporting 3,000 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 individuals. 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 and 2025, UNHCR and partners provided some 9,752 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 Constanta and Suceava, and with its Field Presence in Timișoara, and the main office in Bucharest, covering with partners 15 counties. UNHCR manages the Emergency Transit Centre for refugees in Timișoara, with guidance from national authorities.
- **Cash assistance:** UNHCR implements cash programmes to support the most vulnerable refugees, enrolling over 17,500 refugees in 2024 and 2025, 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 during the winter season through the distribution of core relief items (CRIs) including blankets, winter clothes, and sleeping bags. In 2024 and 2025, UNHCR distributed over 109,551 CRIs to nearly 53,000 refugees.

## Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs (the General Inspectorate of Immigration, the General Inspectorate of the Border Police, and the Department for Emergency Situations), as well as with the Ministries of Labour and Social Solidarity, and of Justice.
- **Inter-Agency and RRP:** UNHCR supports the government's national response plan by leading the Inter-Agency Coordination platform comprising 42 partners implementing humanitarian support for refugees from Ukraine, with a total financial requirement of US\$ 155 million for the years 2025-2026.
- **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 IOM, serving as residential facility which can host up to 200 refugees in transit towards resettlement countries. It started its activities in 2008, to provide temporary evacuation to Romania of persons in urgent need of international protection and their onward resettlement.

## Statelessness

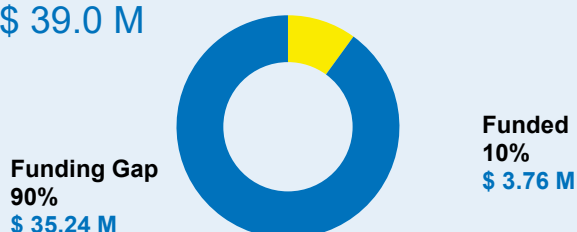
- Romania is a party to both the 1954 and 1961 UN Conventions on Statelessness. UNHCR advocates for the setting of a statelessness status determination procedure with competent authorities, and for closing existing legal gaps on statelessness.

## UNHCR Presence in Romania

Staff:	Offices:
46 National Staff	1 Branch Office in Bucharest
24 International Staff	2 Field Offices in Suceava and Constanta
13 UN Volunteers	
4 Interns	1 Field Units in Timișoara

## Financial information (31 January 2025)

**Financial requirements**  
**US\$ 39.0 M**



UNHCR is grateful for the support from our top government donors in 2024 and 2025:

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