

ROMANIA

Weekly Update #178

22 December 2025

Key figures

197,699 refugees obtained temporary protection and refugee status in Romania (as of end October 2025).

46,580 refugees supported with core relief items in 2025; 45,071 in 2024.

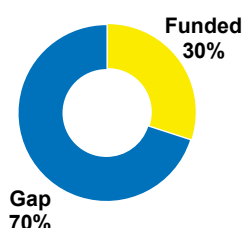
11,857 refugees provided with protection counselling services and legal support in 2025; 26,086 in 2024.

5,903 refugees supported with livelihood and employment services in 2025; 9,286 in 2024.

“It was an unforgettable experience - playing the drums in the group made me feel connected to everyone, and it truly brought the community together. I felt welcome and included, and it was wonderful to share this joyful activity at UNHCR's Community Centre at RomExpo.” *Ana, a 49-year-old refugee from Odesa, Ukraine, living in Bucharest, Romania.*

UNHCR Romania Funding Situation As of 30 November 2025

\$39.0 million
UNHCR's funding requirements 2025



Highlights

On 19 December, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ms. Oana Țoiu, received the Representatives of UNHCR and UNICEF and the IOM Head of Office. The Representatives and Head of Office expressed deep appreciation for Romania's support to the work of the UN Agencies in Romania, as well as for the support to the UN and multilateralism. The UNHCR Representative briefed the Minister on the current status of the refugee response, notably in light of financial concerns faced by the partners under the Refugee Response Plan, and provided an update on ongoing projects and initiatives. The Minister expressed appreciation for the contribution of the UN Agencies in Romania, and proposed to advance towards a common agenda for 2026-2027 to maximise the impact of the UN Agencies in the country.



On 19 December, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ms. Oana Țoiu, received the Representatives of UNHCR and UNICEF and the IOM Head of Office.

On 19 December, the UNHCR-supported KATYA Centre in Braşov closed due to funding shortfalls. Opened in September 2023, the centre assisted 30–50 Ukrainian refugees daily alongside local residents and was established following the closure of the CATTIA Centre set up during the refugee emergency. Managed by the Braşov Metropolitan Agency for Durable Development (AMDDBV) with UNHCR support, the centre offered services in partnership with organisations including World Vision Romania, providing counselling and economic inclusion activities, and IOM, delivering Romanian language classes. AMDDBV also guided refugees on accessing social benefits and provided accompaniment support. Beyond formal services, the centre hosted community initiatives, such as a mothers' club and other activities fostering connection. Its closure leaves refugees and locals without a central space for services, integration, and community engagement.

Humanitarian Response and Advocacy

On 12 December, UNHCR delivered a module to 20 master's students in the Crisis Management programme at the University of Bucharest. The session introduced UNHCR's mandate and emergency response role, focusing on the Refugee Coordination Model and United Nations (UN) cluster coordination system, with examples from responses to the Ukraine situation in Romania. Students took part in a simulation exercise, designing response plans for a sudden refugee influx, including border reception, shelter, protection, and basic services. Participants actively engaged and gave positive feedback, noting the practical, scenario-based approach helped them understand real-life emergency operations.

On 15 December, UNHCR and WHO held a women's wellbeing and personal development workshop at UNHCR's Community Centre at RomExpo in Bucharest. Fourteen women attended, engaging in activities that promoted emotional wellbeing, self-reflection, and peer support, including making Christmas ornaments as symbolic gifts. The workshop supported the Psychological Support Club for Women, strengthening community engagement and wellbeing. On 19 December, UNHCR organised a social cohesion activity for 12 children from Ukrainian refugee and host communities, featuring balloon figure-making, holiday-themed colouring, and friendly competitions. Together, these initiatives provided safe spaces for refugees to connect, express themselves, and build supportive relationships within the community.

On 16 December, UNHCR held a music therapy drumming session at UNHCR's RomExpo Community Centre, led by percussionist and certified music therapist [Cristina Chiosea](#). The activity promoted psychosocial wellbeing, social interaction, and community cohesion in a safe, inclusive space. Open to all, no musical experience was required. Participants engaged in a guided drumming circle using djembe and cajon instruments, encouraging self-expression, stress relief, and connection through rhythm and movement. 25 people actively participated, while others joined spontaneously.

UNHCR is grateful to the donors for unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions to the Ukraine situation. UNHCR in Romania is also grateful to donors contributing to 2025 programmes. For more details: [Romania Funding Update – 2025](#)