

ROMANIA

Weekly Update #177

15 December 2025

Key figures

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

46,040 refugees supported with core relief items in 2025; 45,071 in 2024.

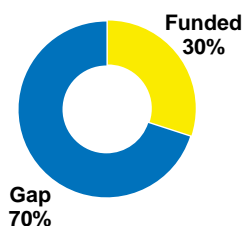
11,731 refugees provided with protection counselling services and legal support in 2025; 26,086 in 2024.

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

“We regularly attend activities at UNHCR’s Community Centre, and each time we are impressed by the creativity, dedication and warmth of the team. We have danced, painted, and taken part in many other meaningful activities.”
Inna, a 37-year-old refugee from Ukraine, living in Bucharest, Romania.

UNHCR Romania Funding Situation As of 30 November 2025

\$39.0 million
 UNHCR’s funding requirements 2025



Highlight

On 8 December, UNHCR Romania hosted the opening of the 2025 edition of the “Nicolae Titulescu” Humanitarian Law and Refugee Law Competition. Romanian authorities attending included Ms. Roxana-Simona Momeu, State Secretary, Ministry of Justice; Ms. Ana-Claudia Țapardel, Vice President with the rank of Undersecretary of State, National Authority for Citizenship; and Ms. Valeria-Oana Zaharia, Interim Manager, National Heritage Institute, who all gave opening remarks. The annual event brought together institutions, professors, and students to promote humanitarian values and deepen understanding of international humanitarian and refugee law. Eight teams (24 students) from the University of Bucharest, Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, West University of Timișoara, “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” Police Academy, Romanian-American University, and the “Ștefan cel Mare” Academy, Republic of Moldova, debated international law cases to compete for the top prize and to represent Romania in the European Competition. At the opening, Mr. Pablo Zapata, UNHCR Representative in Romania, said: “In a fragile international context, young people’s involvement in humanitarian law and refugee protection is more important than ever. We all must contribute to solutions so those forced to flee wars and violence can be safe. No one chooses to be a refugee.” The competition was organised with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, National Commission for International Humanitarian Law, National Heritage Institute, National Authority for Citizenship, Romanian-American University, the Romanian Red Cross, SIMA Association, and Joy Legal & Business - SCP Beatrice Onika-Jarka and Associates.



On 8 December, students attend the opening of the 2025 edition of the “Nicolae Titulescu” Humanitarian Law and Refugee Law Competition.

Humanitarian Response and Advocacy

On 11 December, UNHCR held a session of the Romanian Speaking Club for adults at the UNHCR’s Community Centre at RomExpo as part of a volunteer initiative led by UNHCR colleagues. The session focused on participants’ plans and traditions for the upcoming Christmas and New Year holidays, providing a welcoming and interactive space for refugees to practice Romanian, share personal experiences, and learn from one another’s cultural perspectives. On the same day, UNHCR also held a session of the Romanian Speaking Club for children, focusing on vocabulary and exercises related to toys and games. Through playful activities, guided conversations, and hands-on exercises, children were encouraged to speak, collaborate, and build confidence.

As part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign, UNHCR organised a series of Women’s Club activities at the UNHCR’s Community Centre in Bucharest from 8 to 10 December, promoting women’s empowerment, well-being and access to essential services. On 8 December, participants took part in a creative workshop designing personal Advent calendars reflecting their goals, aspirations and self-care plans, facilitated by Iryna Kolesnyk and co-facilitated by Ukrainian journalist Nadiia Chernukha, Editor-in-Chief of Radio France internationale (RFI) Ukraine, who shared inspiring stories of resilience and leadership. The programme continued on 9 December with an introductory Argentine tango workshop led by Ukrainian facilitator Yevgeniya Druzhinina, with support from Dmytro Yachmin, offering refugee women a space for self-expression, confidence-building and social connection. Activities concluded on 10 December, marking Human Rights Day, with a preventive breast ultrasound campaign implemented in cooperation with Avon Romania, attended by 20 refugee women, with UNHCR staff providing on-site support and interpretation to promote early detection, access to healthcare and women’s rights.

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](#)