

ROMANIA

Weekly Update #176

8 December 2025

Key figures

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

45,478 refugees supported with core relief items in 2025; 45,071 in 2024.

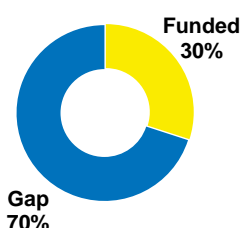
11,396 refugees provided with protection counselling services and legal support in 2025; 26,086 in 2024.

5,580 refugees supported with livelihood and employment services in 2025; 9,286 in 2024.

“We were truly happy to be part of the festive event together with the Ukrainian community at UNHCR’s Community Centre at RomExpo. Singing traditional carols and sharing music in this space allowed us to connect, celebrate our traditions, and bring joy to the community.” *Tetiana, Director of the “Lastivka” vocal ensemble in Bucharest, Romania.*

UNHCR Romania Funding Situation As of 30 November 2025

\$39.0 million
UNHCR’s funding requirements 2025



Highlight

UNHCR Romania is currently finalising its programme plans for 2026. Due to a significant reduction in funding for UNHCR globally, which has also impacted protection work in Romania, programmes will need to be prioritised. As a result, UNHCR’s activities in Romania next year will focus primarily on core protection interventions geared towards inclusion of refugees in Romania, including through evidence-based advocacy, legal assistance to access government services and support on livelihoods and economic inclusion. UNHCR in Romania will continue to cater for the Timisoara Emergency Transit Centre, thereby contributing to the UNHCR-IOM “Route Based Approach” to strengthen protection and solutions in the context of mixed movements of refugees and migrants and will support national institutions in the implementation of the EU Pact on Asylum and Migration. Overall, UNHCR in Romania anticipates an approximate 68 per cent reduction in activities in 2026 compared with 2025, reflecting the scale of the current global funding shortfall. This decrease will also lead to a reduction in partnerships with NGOs that deliver essential services to refugees, while it will continue supporting Refugee-Led Organizations (RLOs). These reductions will inevitably leave increasing numbers of refugees from Ukraine with limited specialised services in key areas such as gender-based violence, notably prevention and response to violence against girls and women, mental health and psychosocial assistance, child protection case management and to access the labour market, without the tailored, specialised support that humanitarian partners have been able to provide until now. Sustained and flexible donor support remains critical to ensuring that refugees in Romania continue to receive the assistance they urgently need.

Humanitarian Response and Advocacy

On 2 December, UNHCR held an online information session on social assistance for refugees with low or no income. The session provided practical guidance on accessing the Minimum Inclusive Income (VMI) and enhanced understanding of related rights and obligations. 13 refugees participated in the event, which offered valuable insights into the application process, the legal framework, and assistance available through UNHCR. The interactive format enabled attendees to ask questions and deepen their understanding of the programme, clarify procedural steps, and strengthen their knowledge of available support mechanisms. So far in 2025, UNHCR has provided protection counselling and legal support to more than 11,300 refugees.

Between 3 and 5 December, UNHCR supported several community and language-learning activities in Romania to strengthen inclusion and social cohesion. At UNHCR’s Community Centre at RomExpo, refugees joined a Christmas tree-decorating event marking the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, alongside Ukrainian carols. Romanian Speaking Club sessions helped build practical language skills and confidence. In Constanța, UNHCR collaborated on a “Ukrainian St. Andrew’s Traditions” cultural event, which showcased Ukrainian and Romanian music and dance, promoting intercultural understanding and community connections.

On 25–26 November, UNHCR organised activities to empower refugee women as part of the “16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence” campaign. In Bucharest, a Women’s Club session, supported by the International Justice Mission, brought together 10 participants to discuss digital safety and prevent online violence. Refugee women shared experiences and practical insights in a supportive environment, strengthening awareness and information-security skills. In Timișoara, UNHCR and AIDRom held a creative empowerment workshop, empowering women with colours, engaging nine women in self-expression and discussions.

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](#)

