

# ROMANIA

## Weekly Update #126

**9 December 2024**

### Key figures

**175,331 refugees** obtained temporary protection in Romania (as of 31 October 2024).

**17,161 refugees** enrolled for cash assistance in 2024.

**23,336 refugees** provided with protection counselling services and legal support since January 2024.

**8,554 refugees** supported with livelihood and employment services since January 2024.

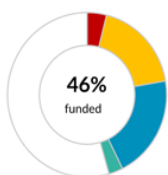
“When we fled Ukraine, I expected to stay just a few weeks, but two years later, Romania feels like home. The kindness of the people and their support when we had nothing is unforgettable. While I miss my home, I’ve found safety here and hope for the future.” - Sofia, a refugee from Ukraine.

### Funding Situation

As of 30 November 2024

**\$54.3 million**

UNHCR's financial requirements 2024



- Tightly earmarked
- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
- Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
- Funding gap (indicative)

### Highlights

On 5 and 6 December, UNHCR, in partnership with the Romanian National Institute of Statistics, organized the third RefData Meet Up in Bucharest. The event was attended by 55 participants from NGOs, academia, authorities and several national statistics offices (NSOs) from different countries in the region and included remarks from State Secretaries Mr Razvan Popescu, Ministry of European Funds and Dr Tiberius Marius Brădăţan, Ministry of Health and Mr Pablo Zapata, UNHCR Representative. The event focused on fostering collaboration with National Statistics Offices (NSOs), localising data collection and information activities, and improving the Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS) in the coming years in order to analyse the needs of the refugee population in Romania and the region.



RefData Meet Up event in Bucharest © UNHCR

On 9 December, UNHCR conducted a workshop with refugee-led organizations (RLOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) within the framework of UNHCR Grant Agreements for 2024. The UNHCR Representative thanked the RLOs and CBO for partnering with UNHCR and encouraged to continue joint efforts to support refugees. The event reflected on the achievements and challenges of 2024 projects and discussed the way forward for 2025. Seven RLOs and one CBO from locations such as Suceava, Arad, Medias, Sibiu, Galati, and Bucharest participated. The workshop focused on lessons learned from the past year, with sessions designed to share insights, identify capacity-building needs, and foster collaboration. Participants also discussed strategies for future projects, including advocacy, information sharing, and improving outreach efforts.



Refugee-led organization workshop © UNHCR

### Humanitarian Response and Advocacy

From 7 to 9 December, the National Competition on International Humanitarian and Refugee Law 'Nicolae Titulescu' took place in Bucharest, bringing together law students from Moldova and Romania. Six teams from universities across both countries showcased their knowledge and skills throughout the event. The Refugee Law contest tested students' ability to present arguments for and against various forms of international protection in a moot trial, as the student teams played the role of lawyers and General Inspectorate for Immigration (GII) officers. For the first time, the judging panel included representatives from the Court of Justice, GII and human rights lawyers. Throughout December, UNHCR is organising six information sessions for refugees in Bucharest to explain the new Emergency Ordinance 96/2024, which provides support to refugees from Ukraine. These sessions are focusing on social assistance and access to health care for those holding Temporary Protection documents and are organized with the support of local authorities and WHO. So far three sessions took place between 3 and 5 December, with Ukrainian refugees actively participating.

On 3 December, as part of the 16 Days of Activism campaign, the refugee-led organisation EDNAE hosted an exhibition showcasing handcrafted pieces created by refugee women in Suceava. The artwork was reflecting the resilience, empowerment and hope that refugee women experienced. The event was attended by 30 individuals from the community. The handcrafted pieces will be presented to the [MADE51 platform](#) to explore potential collaboration and provide refugees with opportunities to earn a livelihood from their work.

*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 2024 programmes. For more details: [Romania Funding Update – 2024](#).*