

ROMANIA

Weekly Update #136

3 March 2025

Key figures

179,822 refugees obtained temporary protection and refugee status in Romania (as of February 2025).

17,986 refugees enrolled for cash assistance in 2024 and 2025.

28,995 refugees provided with protection counselling services and legal support in 2024 and 2025.

9,901 refugees supported with livelihood and employment services in 2024 and 2025.



"I feel torn between the safety in Romania and the uncertainty of returning home in Ukraine." – Inna, a refugee woman from Ukraine, mother of three children, hosted in Constanta, Romania.

Funding Situation

As of 31 January 2025

\$39.0 million
 UNHCR's financial requirements 2025



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

Highlights

On 25 February, UNHCR Representative and Inter-Agency Coordinator in Romania, Mr. Pablo Zapata, was interviewed on [Romania National Television programme Frontul](#). Focusing on the three years of refugee response, he thanked Romania for its commitment and compassion, highlighted the need for continuous support, under the government's leadership. He reaffirmed UNHCR's commitment to continue working in cooperation with partners and authorities to help refugees most in need and the Romanian communities hosting them.



UNHCR Representative during the interview in Frontul, 25 February.

On 24 February, the Prefect of Brasov and UNHCR co-chaired the [Inclusion of Refugees Working Group \(WG\)](#). The first coordination meeting of the year brought together over 20 participants from 17 institutions and organizations to discuss key issues affecting refugees from Ukraine, including access to education, social assistance, the labour market, and healthcare, and support to the Brasov communities hosting them. The meeting served to exchange experiences and identified best practices, while also addressing challenges hindering refugees' inclusion in the local community. Supporting local coordination networks is an integral part of UNHCR's localization strategy and aligns with the objectives of the [2025-2026 Refugee Response Plan](#).

Humanitarian Response and Advocacy

On 27 February, to support Romania's alignment with the EU Pact on Asylum and Migration and enhance the asylum system UNHCR Representative met with the [General Secretary of the Superior Council of Magistracy \(CSM\)](#). The CSM has the oversight function regarding judges and judicial matters including concerning asylum. As a follow up of this initial meeting, UNHCR will provide a summary of relevant provisions that will impact the judiciary system identified within the EU Pact on Asylum and Migration, while CSM has also proposed the setup of a technical working group to follow up on the implementation of the EU Pact.

On 18 February, to raise awareness about the refugee experience and foster empathy among young children, UNHCR hosted a storytelling session at [Happy Planet Kids International Kindergarten in Bucharest](#), engaging 30 children. The event was centred around the inspiring story of a Syrian refugee who overcame multiple challenges to find a new home and compete in the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro for refugee team. The aim of the event was to share with children the realities of displacement. The event fostered resilience, compassion and a sense of global citizenship, laying the groundwork for future awareness of refugee issues.



Story telling session, 18 February, Bucharest.

On 28 February, UNHCR participated in a sport event organised by [Sport Pentru Tot Suceava](#), promoting social cohesion between [Romanian and Ukrainian children](#) and providing an opportunity for the children from both communities to interact, build friendships and break down cultural barriers. Thirty Ukrainian and 20 Romania children participated at the event and played different sports including football, relay races and team ball games.

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](#).