

ROMANIA

Weekly Update #179

19 January 2026

Key figures

199,538 refugees obtained temporary protection and refugee status in Romania (as of end November 2025).

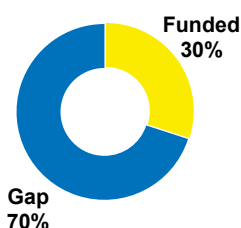
46,649 refugees supported with core relief items in 2025.

12,110 refugees provided with protection counselling services and legal support in 2025 and 2026.

5,903 refugees supported with livelihood and employment services in 2025.

“The war is not yet over, and we know that financial support has been greatly reduced although assistance is still needed for the most vulnerable families. I am the mother of a child with a disability, and I ask, with all my heart, please do not leave us behind.” *Lidiya, a refugee from Kherson, Ukraine, living in Bucharest, Romania.*

UNHCR Romania Funding Situation
As of 30 November 2025
\$39.0 million
 UNHCR's funding requirements 2025



Highlight

On 15 January, the UNHCR Representative, Mr Pablo Zapata, attended the annual meeting of heads of diplomatic missions accredited in Romania, hosted by the President of Romania, Mr Nicușor Dan. In his [address](#), the President reviewed 2025 key developments and 2026 priorities emphasising Romania's continued solidarity with people affected by conflict, with particular focus on the humanitarian impact of the war in Ukraine. He reaffirmed Romania's commitment to supporting the Ukrainian people, including through humanitarian assistance. UNHCR welcomes these commitments and looks forward to further strengthening its partnership with Romania in the coming year to protect refugees and support host communities, expand access to essential services and livelihoods, and advance durable, inclusive solutions for those seeking safety and stability.



On 15 January, the UNHCR Representative attended the annual meeting of heads of diplomatic missions accredited in Romania, hosted by President Nicușor Dan. Photo: Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Humanitarian Response and Advocacy

At the end of 2025, UNHCR concluded its partnership with [Estuar](#), a Romanian NGO specialising in mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS), due to funding constraints. Through its community centres in Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Giurgiu, and Ploiești, and, Estuar provided since 2022 vital psychosocial support to refugees, through counselling, therapeutic activities, and social reintegration services tailored to the needs of displaced individuals, particularly from Ukraine. Estuar helped coordinate a comprehensive, well-integrated response, ensuring refugees receive both immediate and longer-term assistance to rebuild their wellbeing and resilience. UNHCR Romania is highly appreciative of their work and steadfast commitment to supporting refugees and regrets that this vital service will no longer be available as part of the national response. As a direct result of funding shortages, some 800 Ukrainian refugees are no longer receiving MHPSS assistance despite continued needs - Lidiya a refugee from Kherson, highlighted that assistance and services are still needed by the most vulnerable refugees (see quote at left).

On 15 January, UNHCR met with the Commander and Deputy Commander of FRONTEX Contingent 1 at their newly established headquarters in Bucharest, which covers Bulgaria, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Romania. The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange information on mandates, structures, and activities, and to explore avenues for collaboration. Proposals discussed included the resumption of UNHCR briefings for newly deployed FRONTEX personnel, as well as UNHCR participation in training for the Romanian border police in the context of the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum. FRONTEX expressed a willingness to support UNHCR in light of the recent closure of UNHCR field offices and indicated an interest in working with UNHCR on contingency planning.

On 14 January, at the invitation of its partner, the Centre for Comparative Migration Studies, UNHCR delivered a guest lecture as part of the *International Migration and Global Social Change Master's programme* at the West University of Timișoara. The session provided an overview of UNHCR's mandate, the principles of international protection, and the relevant national legal framework, alongside key insights from [UNHCR's 2025 Mid-Year Global Trends Report](#). UNHCR highlighted the crucial role of data in informing advocacy and operational responses to forced displacement, including a presentation of the [2025 Socio-Economic Insight Survey \(SEIS\)](#) – the largest comprehensive data collection initiative examining the situation of forcibly displaced persons from Ukraine in Romania.

On 15 January, UNHCR conducted a child-friendly creative and recreational activity for 12 children aged 6–12 years from Ukraine and the host community at UNHCR's Community Centre at RomExpo in Bucharest. The session focused on upcycling old clothing using fabric paints, encouraging creativity while promoting environmentally friendly practices. Activities also included discussions, theatre improvisation and creative exercises on the theme of friendship, emphasising relationships across different cultures and communities. These initiatives supported children's self-expression, confidence-building, and positive peer interaction in a safe, child-friendly, and inclusive environment.



On 15 January, children took part in creative and recreational activities at UNHCR's Community Centre at RomExpo. Photo: UNHCR

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 its 2025 and 2026 programmes. For more details: [Romania Funding Update – 2025](#)