

# ROMANIA

Weekly Update #139

24 March 2025

## Key figures

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

**18,162 refugees** enrolled for cash assistance in 2024 and 2025.

**29,601 refugees** provided with protection counselling services and legal support in 2024 and 2025.

**10,891 refugees** supported with livelihood and employment services in 2024 and 2025.

“The assistance we received from UNHCR has been vital for us. The winter cash programme helped me to support my child who suffers from chronic illnesses. We are deeply grateful and hope this support continues as we cannot return home.”

*Mariia, arrived from Kherson, Ukraine in 2022 and is now living in Constanta, Romania*

## Funding Situation

As of 28 February 2025

\$39.0 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2025



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

## Highlights

On 20 March, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi made a [statement](#) on the impact of global aid cuts on refugees, warning that severe funding cuts are putting millions of refugees at risk, with immediate and devastating consequences. The High Commissioner highlighted that women and girls fleeing conflict are losing access to critical protection services, leaving them vulnerable to violence and exploitation. Children are being pushed out of school, increasing the risk of child labour, trafficking, and early marriage. Reduced funding also threatens access to shelter, food, and clean water for displaced communities. UNHCR emphasizes that with fewer resources, its ability to respond to emergencies is significantly weakened, potentially leading to loss of life. In Romania, UNHCR is reaching out to authorities, partners, refugees and donors to inform on the programmes affected. An analysis of the wider impact on the refugee response will be made among the 42 Organizations that implement the 2025-2026 Refugee Response Plan in the country.

On 20 March, the Government of Romania approved the [Emergency Ordinance 15/2025](#) extending the humanitarian support and assistance offered to some refugees from Ukraine. The amendment extends the financial support until December 2025, covering newcomers eligible for up to three months of payments, and vulnerable individuals in accommodation centres who meet the criteria. The granting of this financial assistance for these categories of refugees started in July 2024 and is now extended until December 2025.

## Humanitarian Response and Advocacy

On 19 March, UNHCR launched the first consultation session of the “Elderly Club” in Constanța, bringing together 17 participants and fostering social integration and well-being among older refugees. The session facilitated active dialogue, experience-sharing, and collaborative planning for future activities. Participants emphasized their desire to integrate into Romanian society and benefit from structured support networks. A schedule of meetings was established, underscoring the importance of social activities for elderly people.



Elderly refugees from Ukraine living in Constanta at the first session organised by UNHCR. 19 March

UNHCR facilitated the distribution of core-relief items (CRIs) in Constanța, Brăila, Tulcea and Timisoara, reaching over 900 refugees and vulnerable Romanians with humanitarian assistance. These distributions address the immediate needs of vulnerable households from both refugee and host communities. Last week, UNHCR and partners in Constanța, Brăila, Tulcea and Timisoara distributed hygiene kits, bed linen and pillows. So far in 2025, UNHCR assisted 21,423 vulnerable refugees from Ukraine and members of the host community.

On March 21, UNHCR’s Regional Bureau for Europe launched the Regional Information Hub for the [Refugee Employment Platform](#) (REP), a digital tool connecting refugees and stateless individuals with job opportunities, training, and employment support. With 192 participants, the event highlighted private sector engagement, featuring success stories from Jobs for Ukraine in Romania, which has successfully linked refugees with job opportunities since the onset of the refugee emergency. The Platform provides employers with guidance, resources, and supports sustainable refugee employment. UNHCR aims to expand its private sector involvement, fostering long-term integration in the labour market for refugees from Ukraine in Romania and in Europe.

*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](#).*