ROMANIA

Weekly Update #147 **19 May 2025**

Key figures

182,948 refugees obtained temporary protection and refugee status in Romania (as of end March 2025).

2,275 refugees enrolled for cash assistance in 2025; 17,419 in 2024.

5,450 refugees provided with protection counselling services and legal support in 2025; 26,086 in 2024.

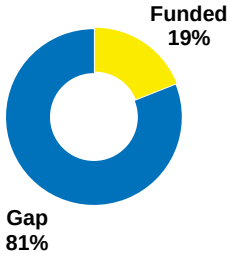
2,086 refugees supported with livelihood and employment services in 2025; 9,286 in 2024.

"As a refugee and an artist, with UNHCR's help, I not only feel safe, but can support others through my art. I'm proud to contribute to preserving Ukrainian culture and creating moments of connection and healing for our community." Oleksandra, 43 year-old refugee, from Dnipro, living in Constanța, Romania.

UNHCR Romania Funding Situation

As of 30 April 2025

$39.0 million
UNHCR's funding requirements 2025



Highlight

On 15 May, H.E. Mr. Massimo Baggi, the Ambassador of Switzerland to Romania, visited the Refugee Community Centre at Romexpo, Bucharest, accompanied by the UNHCR Representative in Romania, Mr. Pablo Zapata. During the visit, the Ambassador discussed with the UNHCR teams and partner NGOs about their activities dedicated to the protection and inclusion of refugees, as well as the support provided by Switzerland to refugees from Ukraine. In addition, the Ambassador led a focus group discussion with refugees who have received assistance related to legal assistance and socio-economic inclusion and employment, hearing about their challenges and long-term plans in Romania.

The Ambassador of Switzerland, H.E. Mr. Massimo Baggi visits the RomExpo Community Centre, Bucharest.

Humanitarian Response and Advocacy

On 14-15 May, UNHCR, in close coordination with the General Directorate of Social Assistance of Bucharest Municipality (DGASMB), began a large-scale distribution of over 305,000 core-relief items (CRIs) at the RomExpo Community Centre. The distributed items such as clothing, hygiene items, and bedding will meet the most basic needs of some 7,000 vulnerable individuals—including Ukrainian refugees fleeing conflict and vulnerable members of the Romanian host community. To date in 2025, UNHCR and DGASMB distributed 14,269 CRIs, reaching 10,284 people.

On 17 May, the UNHCR in Constanța participated in events marking the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) with a series of awareness and capacity-building activities in Galați and Constanța. Under this year's theme "The Power of Communities", 17 refugees attended UNHCR awareness sessions, where they reflected on aspects such as gender, ethnicity, religion, and economic status. The activity raised awareness of how overlapping identities shape experiences. UNHCR also organized a training session for six partner agencies at the Comunitaria Centre in Constanța on "Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Gender Expression and Sex Characteristics (SOGIESC) in Forced Displacement," where participants explored key SOGIESC concepts and discussed protection risks faced by LGBTIQ+ people.

UNHCR together with World Vision opened its registration for an entrepreneurship programme for refugees from Ukraine. The programme will provide refugees with entrepreneurship training comprising of six online sessions that will conclude with a business plan competition from which 10 business plans will be selected for funding through UNHCR-funded grants. So far 156 refugees have registered for the initiative. The deadline for online registrations is 25 May.

On 15 May, UNHCR supported a Family Day event in Constanța organized by the Civic Resource Centre. The event brought together over 60 families, including refugee children and their parents, offering a wide range of activities, including creative workshops and exercises aimed at strengthening family relationships. The event created a warm and inclusive atmosphere, where refugee families had the opportunity to spend meaningful time together and communicate with others.

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