ROMANIA

Weekly Update #156 **21 July 2025**

Key figures

185,984 refugees obtained temporary protection and refugee status in Romania (as of end May 2025).

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

7,794 refugees provided with protection counselling services and legal support in 2025; 26,086 in 2024.

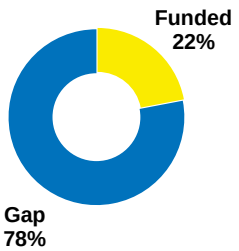
4,442 refugees supported with livelihood and employment services in 2025; 9,286 in 2024.

"We understand that humanitarian aid has decreased, but it's very important for us not to feel alone. Many of us have ideas, skills, and the desire to contribute. We could organize meetings, workshops, and community groups ourselves. But without at least some support, it's hard to take the first steps." Olha, a 40-year-old refugee from Odesa, living in Galați, Romania.

UNHCR Romania Funding Situation

As of 30 June 2025

$39.0 million
UNHCR's funding requirements 2025



Highlights

On 18 July, UNHCR Representative, Mr. Pablo Zapata met with the Minister of Labour, Family, Youth and Social Solidarity, Mr. Petre-Florin Manole to discuss matters related to social assistance, labour integration, and child and disability certificates, as they related to refugees from Ukraine. Follow-up points were agreed upon to ensure that legal dispositions are applied uniformly. The Minister expressed support for UNHCR's mandate in Romania, and focused on practical solutions improving refugees' lives within the existing legal and administrative context.

On 18 July, UNHCR met with the Minister of Labour, Family, Youth and Social Solidarity, Mr. Petre-Florin Manole and his team.

On 15 July, UNHCR Representative, Mr. Pablo Zapata met with the newly appointed State Secretary of the Ministry of Interior (MoI), Ms. Angelica Fădor, together with the Head of the General Immigration Inspectorate (GII), Inspector General Tiberiu Gim Giurea, and the Acting Director General – Principal Inspector of Police within the General Directorate of European Affairs, Schengen, and International Relations, Ms. Nușa Coman. The State Secretary and UNHCR expressed mutual appreciation for their institutions' close collaboration over the years, with particular emphasis on support provided through the UNHCR's Romexpo Community Centre, which continues to be GII's main point of Temporary Protection issuance in Bucharest and in the country, as well as on a wide range of asylum related issues. In addition, Romanian authorities shared updates on the implementation of the European Union (EU) Pact on Asylum and Migration, with UNHCR offering its support in the implementation process.

Humanitarian Response and Advocacy

UNHCR continued its participatory assessment exercise, engaging with 218 refugees through 21 focus group discussions held throughout Romania. The exercise is a structured, inclusive consultation process that involves direct engagement in the form of focus group discussions with refugees to ensure that their voices inform UNHCR's protection strategies, services, and solutions for the coming year, while promoting dignity, inclusion, and accountability. In addition, UNHCR is seeking to receive direct feedback on the ongoing services and adjust its interventions.

On 16 July, UNHCR, in coordination with the Department for Social Assistance of Tulcea, and NGO Solidaritate RO-UA, held an information session with 25 refugees in Tulcea on access to social assistance. The session provided clear guidance on eligibility for Minimum Inclusion Income (VMI) and child benefit, while addressing the responsibilities of recipients. By facilitating direct interaction with local authorities and clarifying access to services such as after-school care and psychological support, the session greatly improved refugees' understanding of their rights and the social welfare system, contributing to more effective and inclusive protection. Since the beginning of the year, UNHCR assisted 7,794 refugees from Ukraine with protection services including group information sessions.

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