ROMANIA

Weekly Update #158 **4 August 2025**

Key figures

188,188 refugees obtained temporary protection and refugee status in Romania (as of end June 2025).

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

8,173 refugees provided with protection counselling services and legal support in 2025; 26,086 in 2024.

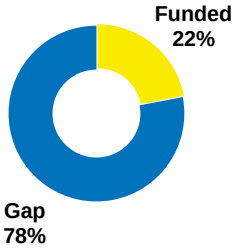
4,649 refugees supported with livelihood and employment services in 2025; 9,286 in 2024.

"Romanians are very kind, and we really want to be closer to them - the language barrier makes it difficult. We need language classes and time to study – but we must work and survive. It would be great to be able to learn the language for free without fear of losing our jobs."
Vlad, a 19-year-old refugee from Odesa, living in Constanța, Romania.

UNHCR Romania Funding Situation

As of 30 June 2025

$39.0 million
UNHCR's funding requirements 2025



Highlight

The Inter-Agency Coordination Unit finalised its assessment of the second quarter 2025 funding situation of the Refugee Response Plan (RRP). Out of $82.8 million appealed for by the 42 RRP partners, only $16,3 million (20 per cent) had been received at the end of the second quarter, with particularly severe funding gaps identified for gender-based violence (GBV), child protection, education, basic needs, and health sectors. 21 of the partners have not received any funding against their appeals. Detailed findings are illustrated in the Inter-Agency accompanying infographic. The results of the assessment will help to inform fundraising efforts to ensure continued provision of essential support to refugees.

Humanitarian Response and Advocacy

UNHCR continued its participatory assessment exercise, engaging with 234 refugees from Ukraine through 24 focus group discussions held throughout Romania. The exercise is a structured, inclusive consultation process that involves direct engagement 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. So far refugees from Ukraine raised needs related to documentation, healthcare, and livelihoods.

Ukrainian refugees in Suceava attend a focus group discussion as part of UNHCR's Participatory Assessment exercise.

On 30 July, UNHCR Romania held an online information session attended by 35 Ukrainian refugees on the Minimum Inclusion Income (VMI). The session focused on explaining the provisions of law no.196/2016 regarding the VMI and the exceptions to the law that apply under Emergency Ordinance No. 96/2024 relevant to temporary protection holders. The session aimed to help refugees understand the eligibility criteria and how to apply for VMI, and the amount paid to recipients of the benefit.

UNHCR supports refugees directly through its activities in the field. At the first session of the UNHCR-supported Youth Club at UNHCR's RomExpo Community Centre, refugee children (aged 12-16) took part in a quiz game. The recreational activity focused on promoting awareness of children's rights. This initiative aimed at empowering young people by fostering knowledge, self-expression, and respect for their own and others' rights in a safe and supportive environment.

During the last week of July, UNHCR worked closely with local authorities and civil society to distribute core relief items (CRIs) including hygiene items and bedding to meet the basic needs of the most vulnerable refugees. The General Directorate of Social Assistance of Bucharest Municipality (DGASMB) distributed 1,172 CRIs to 309 refugees at UNHCR's RomExpo Community Centre. CRI distributions help to ensure the dignity and well-being of the most vulnerable refugees and host community. So far in 2025, UNHCR has provided 107,445 CRIs to 37,570 people in need.

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