

Romania

September 2021

Asylum ranks low on the public agenda despite the fact that number of new arrivals and applications has been steadily increasing since 2020

Strategic engagement with key stakeholders and various actors to expand protection and solutions and improve public perception, including via [Emergency Transit Centre](#) in Timisoara.

Persons of concern enjoy an enabling protection and solutions environment. Refugees benefit from integration prospects and community support.

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

Refugees	3,631
Asylum-seekers	2,242
Stateless persons	277

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Syria	2,002	Afghanistan	1,484
Iraq	594	Syria	215
Afghanistan	170	Iraq	170

*Data source: UNHCR 2020 Global Trends Report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Advocacy: Romania successfully called on authorities to keep the borders open for asylum-seekers despite the pandemic, as well as to include Persons of Concern (POCs) in the national vaccination programmes.

Communication with Communities: Platforms for information and support were created to ensure that refugees and asylum-seekers have equal and non-discriminatory access to health and other basic services. Alternative channels of communication were developed to ensure that protection risks, needs and gaps were properly monitored and addressed.

Health: UNHCR distributed PPEs, hygienic and disinfection materials, and rapid tests to complement government's intervention. Also, it helped with design and dissemination of the [information campaign](#) for the COVID-19 vaccine.

Read the [COVID-19 Response Fact Sheet](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

ETC: 3,300+ evacuated

The Emergency Transit Centre provides a safety net when refugees are at risk and resettlement procedures cannot be completed in the first country of asylum.

2+ Million Reached

in 2021 on all UNHCR external communication platforms through organic and paid campaigns.

Refugee Scholarships

granted in Romania since 2019, by two top 5 universities, through newly developed partnerships with academia.

6,265 asylum requests

submitted at the end of August 2021, surpassing the total number of requests received in 2020 (6,158) and close three times higher than 2018 (2,318) and 2019 (2,586).



New home beckons for Eritrean family who spent a decade as refugees

The family is due to be resettled to the Netherlands as part of a programme supported by UNHCR ([Read more](#))

Key Priorities

- **Access to territory and procedures:** Monitoring and **advocacy** for unhindered access of people in need of international protection to territory and asylum procedure.
- Romania keeps its borders open for people in need of international protection as the number of arrivals via the **border** with Serbia remains high.
- Capacity building to strengthen **asylum procedures** and improve the quality of decisions. Advocacy to ensure protection information, assistance, and representation available at all procedural stages.
- **Reception conditions:** Monitoring, advocacy, and training to ensure adequate standards, including **alternatives to detention**, in law and practice.
- Working to mainstream gender-based violence/**GBV prevention**, identification, and response and to improve inclusion of multi-stakeholder response and effective case management.
- Advocacy for coherent **child protection** legislation, and best interest procedures as well as providing capacity building to relevant **institutions**.
- **Resettlement and Complementary Pathways:** Advocacy and support to enhance the resettlement programme and use of complementary pathways, as pledged at 2019 Global Refugee Forum.
- **Integration:** Advocacy, engagement, and capacity building to enhance refugees' access to housing, labour market, education, and language training. Providing support to refugees on naturalization, family reunification and access to integration services. Supporting refugee participation by fostering community empowerment initiatives.
- **Education:** Engagement with academia and other actors to facilitate access to education (scholarships) and awareness (UNHCR Teaching Kit).

- **Public attitudes towards Persons of concern:** Promote welcoming environment, create empathy, and mobilize action through conventional, media and social media engagement, public events, and a variety of communications partnerships.

Working with Partners

- Supporting state institutions and authorities (i.e. **Immigration, Border Police**) to enhance their capacity of delivering quality protection and assistance to persons of concern.
- UNHCR strengthens civil society capacity to advocate for and intervene in asylum, expands the pool of partners and supports the **NGO Advocacy Coalition for the Rights of Refugees and Migrants**. UNHCR works with NGOs such as **AIDRom, CNRR**, and **JRS Romania** (funded partnerships), and **Anais** on GBV-related activities
- **External Engagement:** Strengthening and diversifying partnerships with institutional actors, municipalities, academia, and research institutes to address the challenges of refugee integration. Develop partnerships (private sector entities, high profile supporters, diplomatic community, civil society) to foster awareness of refugee protection and UNHCR's work.

Statelessness

- Advocacy for the lifting of Romania's reservations to the *1954 Convention on the Status of Stateless persons* and to establish the statelessness determination procedures.

UNHCR Presence in Romania

Staff:

9 National Staff
 2 International Staff
 6 Affiliate Workforce

Offices:

1 Branch Office in Bucharest
 1 Field Unit in Timisoara

Financial information (28 September 2021)

Financial requirements
USD 2.4 M

Funding gap
34%
3.2 M



Funded
66%
2.5 M

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