

Romania Fact Sheet

April 2024



Welcome the stranger.
Protect the refugee.

Introduction

Since full-scale war in Ukraine broke out in February 2022, Romania has witnessed the arrival of over 1 million Ukrainian refugees across its borders. While a significant proportion of these individuals have moved on to other European nations, approximately 85,000 Ukrainian refugees have chosen to remain in Romania, seeking refuge and stability amid the ongoing crisis.

HIAS collaborates with local partners to assist displaced and vulnerable people through a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach. This strategy encompasses direct assistance and support for intervention by local civil society and the refugees themselves. This includes counseling services, the promotion of economic opportunities, facilitating access to justice, and safeguarding the rights of refugees. Particular emphasis is placed on protecting women, girls, and members of the LGBTQ+ community, ensuring they can live their lives free from violence and discrimination. This holistic and localized approach is aimed at empowering these individuals and fostering their resilience and independence.

HIAS Programs and Focus

HIAS initiated its operations in Romania in May 2022, primarily to aid refugees displaced by the Ukrainian crisis with the help of eight local partners. Since then, its support has broadened to encompass refugees in Romania more generally. HIAS concentrates on providing assistance in several key areas: economic inclusion, mental health support, addressing gender-based violence (GBV), and offering legal assistance. HIAS Romania collaborates closely with various partners and delivers direct support in areas with limited resources, especially where there are significant

concentrations of refugees. The focus is primarily on fortifying communities, promoting integration, and encouraging self-reliance among the refugee population.



Activities for refugees from Ukraine at a HIAS-supported community center in Galați, Romania, in July, 2023. (Bill Swersey/HIAS)

Economic Inclusion

Economic inclusion stands as a central component of HIAS' intervention strategy in Romania, aimed at fostering self-reliance among refugees, migrants, and host communities. HIAS Romania supports a variety of activities, including job matching and placement services as well as assistance with registering at job placement agencies. We also provide training and informational support for individuals seeking employment, including building CVs and offering Romanian language courses and vocational training.



Gender-Based Violence

We implement a multi-sectoral care model, encompassing emergency case management and psychological support services.



CB-MHPSS

We empower partner organizations to deliver assistance to vulnerable groups and individuals.



Economic Inclusion

We support job placement services, and offer language courses and vocational training.

Additionally, HIAS Romania supports employers in creating work environments that are both inclusive and sensitive to the needs of diverse employees. This comprehensive approach is designed to enhance the employability of refugees and contribute to their successful integration into the workforce.

Gender Based Violence (GBV) Prevention, Response, and Economic Empowerment

HIAS is committed to enhancing the social and economic protection of women, displaced people in particularly vulnerable situations, and LGBTQ+ individuals who have experienced and survived GBV. To deliver a holistic response, HIAS Romania implements a multi-sectoral care model, encompassing emergency case management and psychological support services through our partner ANAIS. The program supplies vital information to both survivors and those at risk to diminish risks and encourage the use of response services.

Community-Based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

The primary objective of HIAS Romania's MHPSS programming is to empower partner organizations by enhancing their capacity, knowledge, and skills to effectively deliver assistance to vulnerable groups and individuals. MHPSS programs focus on helping forcibly displaced people to build their interpersonal connections, reinstate a feeling of dignity, justice, control, and autonomy in their lives, and bolster their resilience and general well-being. Furthermore, MHPSS endeavors to establish a reliable referral system, enabling individuals in need to access more focused and specialized care for continued support.

Legal Protection

HIAS Romania works to provide an interdisciplinary response to ensure that displaced people can access rights and services and feel empowered. Through counseling and guidance, legal actions, capacity building through training and workshops, and advocacy and strategic litigation at national and local levels, HIAS Romania supports people to overcome barriers of access in an equitable and dignified manner.

HIAS in Africa and Eurasia

HIAS advocates for the protection of refugees, asylum seekers, other displaced populations, and local host communities in Africa and Eurasia. As part of a comprehensive regional response to meet the urgent needs of these populations, HIAS' programming in the region is focused on protection, gender-based violence prevention and response, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and economic integration and community engagement.

HIAS currently has programs in three countries in Africa (Chad, Kenya, and South Africa) and six countries in Eurasia (Greece, Israel, Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Ukraine). Across the region, HIAS partners with a wide range of government agencies (U.S. Department of State Bureau of Democracy Human Rights and Labor, U.S. Department of State Bureau for Populations, Refugees and Migration), UN entities (UNHCR, World Health Organization), the private sector (Moderna), and other non-governmental organizations and local partners.

Contact

For more information, please contact:

Yiftach Millo, Country Director
romania@hias.org