



2024

JRS Romania — Annual Report 2024

*Accompanying, Serving, and Advocating for Refugees in
Romania*

Published: June 2025

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1. Message from the General Manager

2024 was a year of both challenge and transformation. Amid growing needs, limited funding, and increasing pressure on humanitarian actors, JRS Romania continued to walk alongside refugees with compassion and resolve. We witnessed inspiring resilience — from children starting school in a new language to mothers rebuilding their lives.

Our staff, partners, and volunteers are the heart of this mission. Together, we remained anchored in our values: dignity, accompaniment, and justice. As we look toward 2025, we renew our commitment to build inclusive communities and advocate for a future where every person forced to flee finds welcome and hope.

With gratitude,

Cătălin Albu

General Manager, JRS Romania

2. Key Achievements

19,134 people	11,547 women and girls	7,587 men and boys	228 staff and 185 volunteers
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In 2024, JRS Romania served a total of 19,134 people, including 11,547 women and girls and 7,587 men and boys. Our main areas of intervention were education (8,399 people), livelihoods (3,324), and integration and peacebuilding (2,890). Education and protection were also the fields where we had the most significant impact.

Our work took place in nine cities, with 38.93% of all services directed to children. In 2024, JRS Romania expanded its services, strengthened partnerships, and responded to the growing needs of refugees and migrants across multiple sectors. New programmes focused on education and livelihoods, as well as deeper cooperation with local authorities, were launched.

A dedicated team of 228 staff and 185 volunteers was involved in accomplishing our mission.

3. Impact Numbers

Area of Support	Total Served	Share of Total	
Education in Emergency Situations	8,399	43.90%	
Livelihoods	3,324	17.37%	
Peacebuilding	2,890	15.10%	
Emergency Aid	1,421	7.43%	
Protection	990	5.17%	
Mental Health & Psychosocial Support	780	4.08%	
Legal Assistance	499	2.61%	
Health	476	2.49%	
Advocacy	355	1.86%	
TOTAL	19,134	100%	



Overall gender distribution: 11,547 women and girls (60.35%) and 7,587 men and boys (39.65%).

4. Partnerships and Collaboration

In 2024, JRS Romania worked closely with a wide range of institutional, national, and international partners. Their support and collaboration were vital to delivering assistance with dignity, efficiency, and care.

◆ General Inspectorate for Immigration	◆ Romanian Border Police
◆ Department for Emergency Situations (DSU)	◆ Child Protection Services
◆ Municipalities of Galați, Constanța, Bucharest, Brașov	◆ Regional Unemployment Agencies (Galați, Brăila, Constanța)
◆ European Commission	◆ United Nations: IOM, UNICEF, UNESCO, World Health Organization
◆ World Vision Romania, Plan International, Plan Romania	◆ FDSC
◆ Romanian Red Cross, Regina Maria Foundation, Sensiblu Foundation, Terre des Hommes, Foundation Unu și Unu	◆ JRS Europe, JRS International, JRS USA, JRS Canada
◆ Jesuits of Canada, Entreculturas, CAFOD, Caritas Spain	◆ Erste Foundation, Linsi Foundation



In 2024, JRS Romania was honoured as a **laureate of the Opus Prize**, a major faith-based award recognising impactful and compassionate responses to injustice. The award, hosted by **Santa Clara University**, included a week-long celebration with students, faculty, and donors. This recognition highlights the collective work of the JRS Romania team in serving refugees and promoting dignity and justice.

5. Challenges and Lessons Learned

Throughout 2024, JRS Romania navigated several challenges, including donor fatigue, increased refugee inflows, rising costs, and limited core funding. Social and political pressures surrounding migration also impacted programme delivery. Despite these challenges, the team maintained adaptability and upheld its mission with commitment.

JRS Romania continued to expand and diversify its programmes, responding to the urgent needs of refugees, asylum seekers, and other vulnerable migrants across the country. Despite challenges in funding continuity, our projects showed how timely, practical, and compassionate support can transform lives and create stronger pathways toward integration.

STEP IN Project – Building Resilience through Mental Health Support

Funded by the European Commission through the EU4Health Programme and managed by HADEA, the STEP IN Project introduced the Problem Management Plus (PM+) methodology to Romania. Trained professionals supported migrants with evidence-based tools to cope with stress and anxiety in times of emotional hardship. More than just practical strategies, PM+ provided a safe and supportive environment where participants could share their experiences, rebuild resilience, and move forward with renewed confidence and hope.

UAHELP Project – Opening Doors to Integration

Through funding from the EEA and Norway Grants, the UAHELP Project extended essential services in Bucharest, Galați, and Constanța. Refugees and migrants accessed counselling, training, and healthcare, but the project's greatest impact lay in its focus on long-term inclusion. Beneficiaries were guided through the complex process of diploma recognition, enabling their professional qualifications to be formally acknowledged in Romania. In addition, many completed vocational courses leading to accredited diplomas, opening doors to employment and stability while also fostering social inclusion and active community participation.

Restarting AMIF Projects – Filling a Critical Gap

After an eight-month gap in implementation that left many beneficiaries of international protection without support, our AMIF-funded projects resumed in June 2024. The interruption highlighted how vital it is to provide continuous assistance in housing, legal counselling, and integration programmes. With renewed funding, three key initiatives restarted, each targeting specific and urgent needs:

- ***A New Home in Romania*** – Providing financial assistance for rent, this project enables individuals and families with international protection to move out of reception centres and into safe homes. Stable housing promotes independence, social integration, and a sense of dignity.
- ***Alternative*** – Offering a humane alternative to detention, this project houses people with toleration status in the Pedro Arrupe Open Centre. Alongside safe accommodation, beneficiaries receive legal counselling, financial assistance, and access to medical services. This initiative restores dignity and ensures protection for one of the most vulnerable groups in Romania.
- ***My Place*** – Supporting both beneficiaries of international protection and third-country nationals, this project creates spaces for integration and community-building. From Romanian language courses and civic orientation to cultural and recreational activities, the programme equips participants for independent living. Beneficiaries also access employment and legal counselling, while children receive educational support, school supplies, meals, and psychosocial assistance. By combining practical services with social participation, My Place helps build stable futures in Romania.

In the field of education, JRS Romania has operated more than 36 hubs with a network of 100 Ukrainian teachers. As donor involvement decreased despite the continuing need for support, the programme was adapted into after-school activities and progressively resumed in several locations, ensuring continuity of learning and integration opportunities for Ukrainian children. The exit strategy focused on supporting Ukrainian teachers to transition toward sustainable employment. This included job placement assistance, advocacy with national authorities to create pathways for their employment in Romanian schools, and intensive Romanian language courses to strengthen their capacity to teach and integrate professionally.

6. Financial Summary

Below is a summary of JRS Romania's expenditure by programme area in 2024. Total expenditure was RON 13,125,571, equivalent to EUR 2,638,518 at the 2024 annual average exchange rate of the National Bank of Romania (1 EUR = 4.9746 RON).

Programme Area	Amount in RON	EUR Equivalent
Education in Emergency Situations	5,628,008.30	1,131,349
Livelihoods	3,492,261.30	702,019
Emergency Aid	3,133,348.30	629,869
Mental Health & Psychosocial Support	311,094.10	62,536
Peacebuilding & Reconciliation	245,579.00	49,367
Protection & Legal Advice	237,134.00	47,669
Advocacy & Communication	78,146.00	15,709
TOTAL	13,125,571.00	2,638,518

7. Contact Information

Tax identification number (CUI):
13046611

Registration number: 229/02.05.2000

www.jrsromania.org

Email: office@jrsromania.org

English/Romanian: +40 732 129 238

Ukrainian: +40 744 405 657

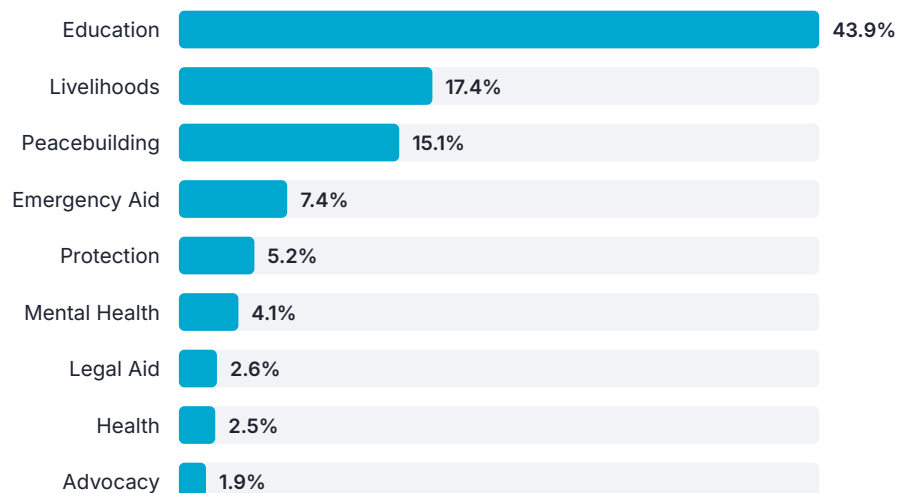
Fax: +40 372 877 090

Address: 54 Maior Ilie Opriş Street, Sector 4, Bucharest 041378, Romania

Bank BRD SMCC – IBAN: RO66BRDE450SV01018214500

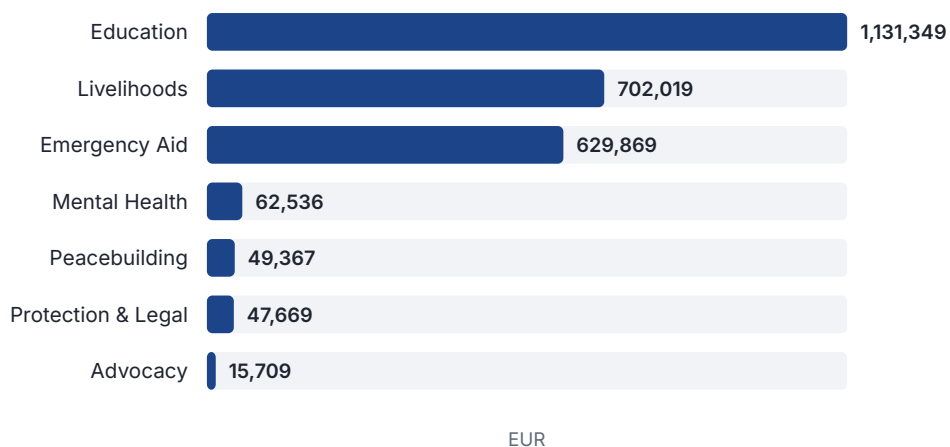
Annex: Visual Summary

People Served by Area of Support

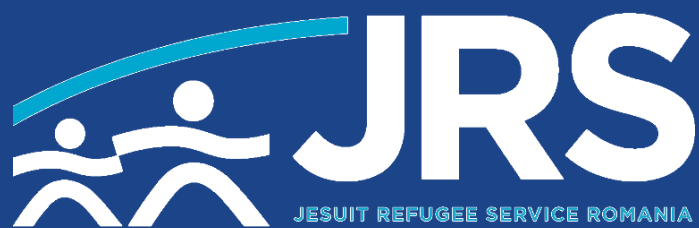


This chart illustrates the distribution of people supported by JRS Romania across programme areas in 2024.

Expenditure by Programme Area



This chart displays expenditure across programme areas, in EUR.



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