

ROMANIA

Weekly Update #63

11 September 2023

Key figures

142,074 refugees granted temporary protection in Romania.

86,693 refugees present in Romania (as of 3 September 2023).

51,202 refugees supported with cash assistance in 2023. 43,129 refugees supported in 2022.

64,833 refugees provided with protection counselling services and legal support in 2023. 65,000 refugees assisted in 2022.

4,000 refugees supported with livelihoods and employment services in 2023.



Let 's continue fostering a welcoming environment for refugees, so that they can rebuild their lives with dignity and become valued contributors to society.

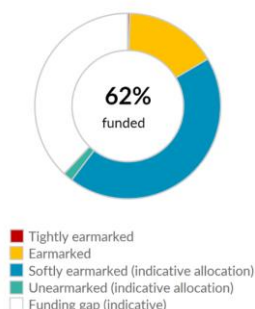
- Doinita, a Romanian language teacher providing lessons to refugees from Ukraine.

Funding Situation

As of 31 August 2023

\$59.5 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2023



Highlights

On 8 September, the Government of Romania approved the [government decision](#) regarding the allocation of RON 110 million for accommodation and food of Ukrainian refugees granted temporary protection in Romania, for May and June 2023. Authorities, UNHCR and other actors had been in close contact on the impact of that delay of payment on vulnerable refugees. The same day UNHCR disseminated the news through its Telegram channel directly reaching 15,000 refugees (with some 800 shares).

On 7 September, Ms Agata Kornhauser-Duda, First Lady of Poland visited UNHCR's integrated service hub in RomExpo, Bucharest. Mr Pablo Zapata, UNHCR Representative, Dr Raed Arafat, Head of the Department for Emergency Situations, and Heads of UN Agencies present, briefed the First Lady about the current status and good practices of refugee response and the services provided by 16 authorities, UN Agencies and partners present at RomExpo. During the visit, the First Lady met with refugee women and their children and learned about their experience in Romania. The First Lady also visited the donation centre of the Municipality of Bucharest providing food and clothes to refugees from Ukraine and interacted with the refugees assisted there.



Ms Agata Kornhauser-Duda, First Lady of Poland visiting UNHCR's integrated service hub in RomExpo, Bucharest on 7 September 2023.

Population Movements

Over the past weeks, and ahead of the new school year, the number of refugees present in Romania has decreased from some 95,600 in the beginning of August to 86,700 as of 3 September. In the coming weeks, the overall number of refugees staying in Romania ahead of the winter season would be clearer.

UNHCR and partners are regularly monitoring border crossings with Moldova and Ukraine. Following attacks in Ukraine targeting port facilities near the Romania-Ukraine border, UNHCR and CNRR have conducted daily monitoring visits at Isaccea and Oancea border crossings to assess the humanitarian needs of those entering Romania. No major arrivals were reported. UNHCR also provided local authorities and NGOs with core-relief items (CRIs) including 200 blankets, 210 bed linen sets, 195 sleeping bags, 200 hygiene kits and 5,000 litres of water to meet the immediate needs of new arrivals.

Coordination

On 5 September, UNHCR, together with the Prefecture of Timis County, organised an event to launch the Refugee Coordination Network in Timisoara. The Coordination Network aimed at strengthening efforts of inclusion for refugees building on the experience of coordination both in Timis and Timisoara. Over 60 persons from local authorities, NGOs and civil society organisations participated in the event. Since 2022, UNHCR has reinforced or established local coordination networks in seven counties.

Response

UNHCR continues supporting vulnerable refugees from Ukraine with its cash for protection programme. Eligibility criteria were revised to include new arrivals who have spent at least 30 days in Romania and hold temporary protection. So far, 4,543 individuals have been positively assessed to be included in the programme while 3,000 refugees have already received the first instalment.

UNHCR, together with partners, is helping refugees from Ukraine to enter the labour market. This week, UNHCR's partner HEKS/EPER started a vocational course for ten refugees on professional cooking. So far in 2023, UNHCR and partners assisted nearly 4,000 refugees with livelihoods and employment related services, including 114 refugees with vocational trainings and other 513 with Romanian language courses.

UNHCR is grateful to the donors of unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions to the Ukraine situation. UNHCR in Romania is also grateful to donors contributing to its 2023 programmes. For more details: Romania Funding Update - 2023 | Global Focus (unhcr.org)