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KEY FIGURES

Some **10,653** refugees from Ukraine enrolled for cash assistance in Romania

90% of the refugees enrolled are women and children

5 enrollment centres in Brasov, Bucharest, Galati, Iasi and Suceava.

Cash has been transferred to over **9,000** people (First and second payments)



As we continue to support the national response, cash assistance has significantly contributed to the protection and inclusion of refugees from Ukraine who intend to remain in Romania, by increasing their self sufficiency and reducing risks of abuse. The regional character of UNHCR's multi-purpose cash assistance allows for a comprehensive and harmonized response to all refugees settling in front line countries avoiding duplication and thereby reaching more persons in need.

Pablo Zapata
UNHCR, Representative a.i. in Romania



Refugees from Ukraine getting enrolled to receive cash assistance from UNHCR at the cash enrolment centre in Brasov, Romania. © UNHCR

Why cash?

UNHCR's Cash Assistance Programme is designed in coordination with the Government and complementary to its efforts to support refugees from Ukraine. Multipurpose cash assistance is one of the most efficient and effective ways to support people forced to flee, especially in fast-changing emergencies. It serves as a transitional safety net pending the individual's ability to find a job or be included in national social protection schemes. Using secure financial technology combined with strict data protection measures, UNHCR provides refugees with cash securely and quickly. Families can purchase goods and services from local businesses which boosts the economy. Most importantly, cash assistance respects the dignity of choice and independence of people forced to flee, and gives them a sense of normality and ownership, allowing them to decide what they need most to support their family.

What support do refugees get?

Eligible refugees who enrol for cash assistance receive RON 568 (approx. USD 120) per month for three months, equal to the amount provided to refugees by the Government of Romania. UNHCR intends to provide transitional cash to support basic needs of refugees fleeing war. This amount has been agreed with relevant actors through the Cash Working Group.

What is the link between cash assistance and protection?

UNHCR's cash assistance programme in Romania is an opportunity to reach refugees, particularly those with specific needs, and offer them additional support and protection services, like counselling, psychosocial first aid and referral to other national services. The General Inspectorate of Immigration has a permanent presence at the UNHCR RomExpo cash assistance enrolment centre for issuance of temporary protection status

to refugees, supported by the European Union Asylum Agency, creating synergy between national protection assistance and UNHCR's multipurpose cash assistance.

Whom do we help?

On 4 April, UNHCR launched its pilot cash assistance programme for Ukrainian or third-country nationals displaced from Ukraine because of the conflict, who have stayed in Romania for at least seven days and are in the following situation:

- A family with one or more persons with a disability and/or serious medical condition.
- Single parent with no other adult member (between 18 to 60-year-old).
- A family headed by a person above 60-year-old with no other adult member (between 18 to 60-year-old).
- A family with one or more children (under the age of 18) including child(ren) (under the age of 18) separated from their parents or legal caregiver.
- A family with a pregnant woman.
- Single women who are alone.

REFUGEES WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS

567 refugees with specific needs enrolled for cash assistance, including **341** people with serious medical condition and **123** people with disabilities.

How does it work?

1. Refugees request an appointment via help.unhcr.org/Romania or dopomoha.ro.
2. They receive an appointment by SMS.
3. Refugees are invited to a UNHCR-run enrolment centre, where they are asked to provide their family composition, the current location of stay, etc., providing as well their identity documents.
4. At the RomExpo enrolment center in Bucharest, refugees from Ukraine can directly approach UNHCR for assistance. If eligible, they can get enrolled for cash assistance instantly without any appointment request.
5. UNHCR uses biometrics to ensure there is no duplication of assistance within and outside the country, particularly as its programme is rolled out at regional level.
6. If refugees have specific needs (for instance, older people or separated children) or otherwise are in need of support, they are referred for further counselling to a psychosocial counsellor, safe spaces, and other services.
7. After enrolling with UNHCR, refugees receive an SMS containing a pick-up code notifying them that cash assistance is ready.
8. Refugees go to any of the Smith & Smith locations and show their identity documents and the unique pick-up code.
9. Once confirmed, refugees will be able to withdraw cash benefits completely, and up to three months.

Who are our partners?

NGO partners include AIDRom, which has supported the programme since its pilot phase, and human resource partner include Adecco. IKEA donated furniture for the RomExpo cash assistance enrolment centre.

What's next?

- UNHCR is piloting the use of bank transfer as the preferred delivery modality going forward.
- Additional cash enrolments center/ mobile team is being established in Constanta.