

ROMANIA

Weekly Update #40

31 March 2023

Key figures

123,761 refugees granted temporary protection in Romania (as of 24 March)

109,559 refugees in Romania (as of 24 March)

16,057 refugees supported with cash assistance in 2023. 43,129 refugees supported in 2022.

19,825 refugees provided with protection counselling services and legal support in 2023. 65,000 refugees assisted since 2022.

916 refugees supported with fast-track transfers from Moldova to Romania in 2023 and 14,636 in 2022.



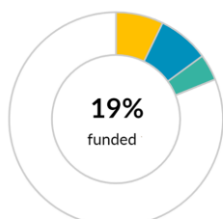
My four-years-old son and I escaped the war in Ukraine and came to Romania as we had a family-friend here. My son is now attending a kindergarten while I am maintaining two jobs to sustain my family needs. - **Oxana (age 30) a refugee mother from Ukraine.**

Funding Situation

As of 28 March 2023

\$59.5 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2023



■ Earmarked
■ Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
■ Unearmarked (indicative allocation)

Highlight

UNHCR has closely engaged and followed on the new refugee assistance Emergency Ordinance [proposal](#) that should replace the “50/20 programme” that provided vital and necessary accommodation and food for the refugees from Ukraine hosted in Romania. Romanian authorities are amending this programme with a view of maintaining sustainable support to refugees, encouraging inclusion in key areas, while ensuring that the financial assistance is delivered directly to refugees. UNHCR considers these goals are sound and ensure a sustained assistance until relevant systems are ready to support refugees, in accordance with the National Plan of Measures for the Protection and Inclusion of Refugees from Ukraine. Consultations for the new assistance scheme included UN Agencies and NGOs. Through our hotline and that of other organisations, refugees are conveying anxiety as not all information is yet available, as the Emergency Ordinance is to be implemented through a Governmental Decision. More concerning, there are increasing reports of eviction of refugees by landlords who have not benefitted from the 50/20 programme. Since the onset of the crisis, UNHCR and partners -as well as RRP partners- have complemented efforts of the authorities towards inclusion and protection through different protection-based programmes and aid, including cash assistance and distribution of core-relief items (such as blankets, quilts, hygiene materials and winter clothes). UNHCR, through its counselling desks -for instance at RomExpo- and hotlines, is assisting refugees with counselling and/or referral to partners to address the pressing needs.

Response

On 30 March, UNHCR distributed clothes, bed linen, blankets, towels, and hygiene kits to 124 families (approx. 370 refugees) hosted in five hotels in Constanța. This week, UNHCR also distributed 3,000 bottles of water to 600 Ukrainian refugees and vulnerable Romanians residing in collective centres and private accommodations in and around Galati. In addition, following prior needs assessments, plates and cutlery were delivered to the Betesda Foundation in Galati to assist more than 40 refugees and people from the host community.



CRI distribution in Contanta on 30 March 2023.

The enrolment for UNHCR’s winter cash assistance programme has been completed on 27 March registering a total of 14,883 refugees in 2023. UNHCR is now re-designing its cash programme targeting refugees with specific vulnerability criteria.

UNHCR continues to support refugees from Ukraine with livelihoods opportunities in Romania. Since January 2023, UNHCR, together with partners, assisted 1,200 refugees with language trainings, employment counselling, and support in developing CV.

Coordination

On 24 March, the Inter-Agency team and the Youth and Adolescence Task Force, co-facilitated a workshop on assisting youth and adolescent refugees in Romania. Nearly 20 participants from various actors, including FONPC, NRC, ActionAid, Plan Int., UNICEF and UNHCR highlighted the need for mobilising funds for youth-led initiatives, ensuring academic recognition, enhancing access to language courses, employment opportunities, preventing human trafficking and promoting psycho-social services, including recreational activities.

On 28 March, the [final report for the 2022 Regional Refugee Response Plan for the Ukraine Situation \(RRP\)](#) has been published with a dedicated chapter on the response in Romania. The report outlines the collective efforts and achievements of host governments, local communities, volunteer groups and partners in assisting refugees from Ukraine.

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 \(unhcr.org\)](#)