

ROMANIA

Weekly Update #47

19 May 2023

Key figures

133,363 refugees granted temporary protection in Romania.

94,363 refugees present in Romania (as of 14 May 2023).

18,898 refugees supported with cash assistance in 2023. 43,129 refugees supported in 2022.

33,796 refugees provided with protection counselling services and legal support in 2023. 65,000 refugees assisted in 2022.

1,825 refugees supported with livelihoods & employment services in 2023.



I had never been to Romania before the war started in Ukraine. Thankfully, we were welcomed by a Romanian family who helped with everything during the first three weeks when I felt like I was in a fog. Gradually I realized that I need to pull myself together and be there for my children. With support from Romanian people, local organizations and parents like myself, I managed to get back on my feet.

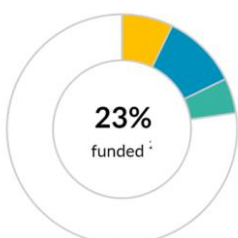
–A refugee mother hosted in Bucharest, Romania.

Funding Situation

As of 10 May 2023

\$59.5 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2023



Highlights

On 19 May, the US Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources Richard R. Verma, accompanied by the US Ambassador Kathleen Kavalec, and the US Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs Jessica Lewis visited the UNHCR's integrated service hub located at RomExpo, Bucharest. UNHCR together with the Romanian authorities and 16 partners are providing coordinated support and comprehensive services to refugees from Ukraine. The delegation observed the services available and exchanged views with the refugees present at RomExpo. Since the opening in May 2022, 37,000 refugees received UNHCR's cash assistance, 3,500 refugees received protection services and 42,300 refugees received temporary protection documentation at RomExpo.



Visit of the US delegation at RomExpo on 19 May 2023.

Population Trend

The number of refugees from Ukraine present in Romania continues to decrease, from its peak of 113,000 in February, to the current 94,363 (as of 12 May). This decrease was anticipated as many refugees who arrived during winter months expressed that they came with a view to return in spring. Through its field offices in Suceava, Iasi, and Galati, UNHCR is monitoring movements -including reasons for return- and providing assistance at main border crossing points. Pendular movements are ongoing with an average 8,320 Ukrainians entering and 8,504 Ukrainians exiting Romania on a daily basis.

Response

UNHCR and partners are scaling up its protection services in view of the ending of the 50/20 programme and until the new system of governmental assistance is in full implementation, including a one-off cash assistance for 35,000 vulnerable refugees. Over the past weeks, 17,200 refugees updated their data through a UNHCR digital platform and five UNHCR enrollment centres across Romania. In addition, refugees are assisted in Bucharest and other major cities in Romania with dedicated counseling (via phone and in person) to access the new Government support programme. Since the beginning of 2023, over 33,000 refugees received protection and counseling services in person or through hotlines.

UNHCR continues supporting refugees in need of core-relief items (CRIs). During the week, UNHCR in Galați and partners distributed 1,328 CRIs including hygiene kits, blankets, towels, and clothes as well as 2,972 litres of bottled water to 714 vulnerable refugees residing in Brăila and Constanța counties. On 8 May, UNHCR and partners in Suceava distributed hygiene kits and baby dining sets to 96 refugees, mostly women and children in Suceava and in Sighisoara.

UNHCR continues to enhance capacity of partners for prevention of and response to gender-based violence (GBV). During the week, UNHCR, jointly with UNFPA, WHO and UNICEF, co-facilitated a training for frontline professionals on Clinical Management of Rape and Intimate Partner Violence (CMRIPV), including GBV and referral pathways. 27 participants from social and health institutions participated in this training.

On 19 May, UNHCR held a stakeholder workshop to kick off the awareness and advocacy campaign on refugee inclusion and social cohesion, with 25 participants from a national NGO, a research group, academia and the authorities. The campaign aims to remind the public of the solidarity expressed so far in welcoming and supporting the refugees from Ukraine, and cultivate a sense of social cohesion and inclusion.

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 \(unhcr.org\)](#)