UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION UPDATE

ROMANIA
Weekly Update #51 16 June 2023

Key figures
135,243 refugees granted temporary protection in Romania.
93,697 refugees present in Romania (as of 11 June 2023).
43,143 refugees supported with cash assistance in 2023. 43,129 refugees supported in 2022.
44,368 refugees provided with protection counselling services and legal support in 2023. 65,000 refugees assisted in 2022.
2,896 refugees supported with livelihood & employment services in 2023.

Highlight
In order to increasingly serve refugees with specific needs, UNHCR is adopting a new vulnerability targeting methodology. On 16 June, the Municipality of Brasov and the Inter-Agency coordination platform, led by UNHCR, organized a workshop to validate the vulnerability assessment scorecard that has been developed in consultation with actors providing cash and other critical humanitarian assistance. Around 28 participants from 16 partners, including Municipalities, UN Agencies and NGOs participated validated the vulnerability criteria for assistance, including cash. UNHCR will soon pilot this new methodology with a small case of 400 vulnerable refugees for the Cash for Protection programme. This scorecard will be a source available to humanitarian partners to achieve a coherent response in critical areas of support.

Furthermore, in preparation of the new Cash for Protection programme, UNHCR organised a half-day training for the more than 20 enrolers in Bucharest and Brasov to enhance their skills on communication, interviewing and counselling refugees. So far in 2023, UNHCR has supported 43,143 refugees with cash assistance, including 28,260 refugees with one-off assistance to address the needs during the period between the end of the 50/20 programme and the full implementation of the new government assistance.

Response
UNHCR continues to monitor arrivals and protection needs of refugees. Last week, UNHCR together with partners, increased its visits of border crossing points with Ukraine and Moldova to monitor arrival flows following the destruction of the Kakhovka dam in Ukraine. UNHCR and partners did not observe any increase of arrivals of refugees from Ukraine induced by the Kakhovka dam destruction. Currently there are over 93,700 refugees from Ukraine in Romania and no significant change on the overall refugee population has been observed in the last week.

UNHCR is distributing core relief items (CRIs) to vulnerable refugees through partners at the local level. Over the past month, UNHCR partner PATRIR delivered CRIs, including utensils, hygiene kits, and clothes for 103 individuals in Sighetu Marmației (central Romania). Most of the families came from areas affected by the war in Ukraine. Furthermore, UNHCR delivered blankets, quilts, pillows, hygiene kits, wipes and clothes to 66 individuals in Bistrița (northern Romania). The recipients of the CRIs are mostly women and children. So far in 2023, UNHCR distributed more than 125,000 CRIs.

UNHCR is supporting refugees from Ukraine to find livelihoods opportunities in Romania. Last week, UNHCR’s partner HEKS began the registration for Romanian language summer courses with 34 refugees, reaching 345 individuals from Ukraine enrolled in language courses this year. Moreover, UNHCR and partners supported nearly 1,000 refugees with career counselling and information aid to find employment in Romania. In 2023, nearly 120 refugees have gained employment through direct assistance from UNHCR and partners.

UNHCR Inter-Agency is mapping humanitarian services available to refugees in Romania. The team held individual meetings with core partners of the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) and continued to provide online support to map available services for refugees from Ukraine currently in Romania. Currently over 175 services are mapped on the platform [link].

UNHCR is grateful to the donors of uneblanked 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]

I want to utilize my experience as a doctor to serve people of Romania. I am preparing my diploma and other documents for the nostrification so that I can join an hospital here in Romania.

– Dr. Svitlana, a refugee woman from Ukraine hosted in Romania.

Funding Situation
As of 15 June 2023

$59.5 million
UNHCR’s financial requirements 2023

Funding status: 54%

www.unhcr.org