ROMANIA
Weekly Update #52
26 June 2023

Key figures
135,900 refugees granted temporary protection in Romania.
94,270 refugees present in Romania (as of 18 June 2023).
43,891 refugees supported with cash assistance in 2023.
43,129 refugees supported in 2022.
46,276 refugees provided with protection counselling services and legal support in 2023.
65,000 refugees assisted in 2022.
3,008 refugees supported with livelihoods & employment services in 2023.

Highlight
UNHCR and partners commemorated the World Refugee Day with a series of events with participation of relevant authorities and institutions at national and local level, media, humanitarian actors and refugees from Ukraine and around the world hosted in Romania. World Refugee Day is an international day designated by the United Nations to honour and celebrate the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict or persecution. Throughout the week, hundreds of refugees in Timisoara, Bucharest, Suceava, Galati, Constanta Iasi, Radauti, and Sibiu engaged in the activities and exchanged their experiences. A media briefing took place with State Counsellor Turza and State Secretary Arafat, accompanied by the Ambassadors of Germany and Sweden, the UNHCR Representative and a refugee from Ukraine. All events and engagements were centred around this year’s theme Hope Away from Home – a world where refugees are always included, and highlighted the solidarity that refugees receive in Romania. The Prime Minister of Romania added his voice of support to refugees on World Refugee Day (link).

Response
UNHCR continues to support vulnerable refugees from Ukraine with cash assistance. In 2023, UNHCR has supported 43,891 refugees with cash assistance, including 29,000 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.
UNHCR in Galați launched the pilot phase of the area-based assessment to measure needs of refugees from Ukraine. UNHCR together with the Department for Social Assistance and CNRR developed an online form for collecting data. This exercise will also include quantitate survey and focused group discussion with refugees, as well as host communities. Findings of this exercise will help UNHCR, and relevant actors develop focused response to address the needs at the local level.
UNHCR and partners are enhancing economic inclusion of refugees in Romania. Last week, through the support of partner HEKS/EPER, 20 refugees have started different vocational training courses in Cluj. In addition, UNHCR and partners are supporting refugees by providing information on how to set up a business in the country and/or support new entrepreneurship initiatives with grants. So far in 2023, 3,000 refugees received different livelihood services from UNHCR and partners, including Romanian language courses and vocational trainings.

UNHCR is conducting internal capacity building to better support refugees. Over the past weeks, UNHCR in Romania has completed several training sessions for staff working throughout Romania concerning UNHCR’s policy on fraud and existing anti-fraud standard operating procedures.

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