

ROMANIA

Weekly Update #67
9 October 2023

Key figures

144,152 refugees granted temporary protection in Romania.

85,006 refugees present in Romania (as of 1 October 2023).

52,273 refugees supported with cash assistance in 2023. 43,129 refugees supported in 2022.

71,698 refugees provided with protection counselling services and legal support in 2023. 65,000 refugees assisted in 2022.

4,260 refugees supported with livelihoods and employment services in 2023.

“ I am optimistic about my future. My priority is to continue with education in Bucharest. I believe education will enable me to have a better future with happiness, success and stability.

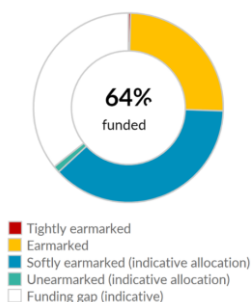
Danya – refugee from Ukraine.

Funding Situation

As of 4 October 2023

\$59.5 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2023



Highlights

On 2 October, UNHCR, jointly with the Metropolitan Agency for Sustainable Development Brasov and Terre des hommes (Tdh), inaugurated the new **KATYA centre in Brasov for refugees from Ukraine and the local community**. This Centre gives continuity to the services that were provided since the onset of the crisis in Brasov in the CATTIA centre and is supported by UNHCR through its partnership with Tdh. Around 40 participants from local authorities and humanitarian organizations attended the inauguration of the centre that serves around 500 refugees from Ukraine living in and around the city. The centre is providing protection and integration services for refugees, such as counselling, mental health and psycho-social support, as well as enrolment for cash assistance.

On 6 October, UNHCR Representative Mr. Pablo Zapata opened a special photo exhibition: “Strength, Resilience, Hope: Refugee Identity” as part of the **Bucharest Photofest**. The photo exhibition showcases the strength, resilience and hope of refugees and their journey from the moments of arrival from Ukraine to the present day’s efforts towards inclusion in Romania. While they retain their identity from home, refugees make efforts towards inclusion and rebuild their lives in host communities bringing in a wealth of knowledge, experiences, and culture.

Population Movements

Since 6 October, border crossing between Ukraine and Romania in Isaccea were interrupted, causing difficulties to those entering/exiting Ukraine. The interruption of border activities was caused by drone attacks targeting Reni port and Orlivka customs in Ukraine. UNHCR in Galati and CNRR are present in the area and monitoring arrivals in Romania. Currently there are over 85,000 refugees from Ukraine in Romania which is similar to the overall refugee population in October 2022 (82,600).

Response

UNHCR is conducting focus group discussions (FGDs) with the refugees from Ukraine and refugees of other nationalities living across Romania. This exercise will help UNHCR plan protection programmes and interventions for 2024. Dedicated consultations with refugee women, men, boys, and girls from different social groups are now ongoing throughout the country to identify their specific protection risks. So far, 108 Ukrainian refugees including 53 women, 35 men and 20 youth participated in 12 consultations in Bucharest, Suceava, Iasi, Galati, Constanta and Brasov. In parallel, UNHCR is also developing its detail planning for next year in consultation with partners involved in the refugee response.



Focus group discussion conducted in Suceava on 5 October 2023.

UNHCR and its partner have reached in 2023 nearly 72,000 refugees with protection counselling and legal advice in person or through dedicated hotlines. As UNHCR efforts to support inclusion continue, the role of counselling and legal advice is increasingly focusing on access to services and legal benefits.

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)