

# ROMANIA

Weekly Update #69

23 October 2023

## Key figures

**145,352 refugees** granted temporary protection in Romania.

**83,726 refugees present** in Romania (as of 15 October 2023).

**53,334 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.

**5,630 refugees** supported with livelihoods and employment services in 2023.

“*Three months ago I moved to Romania where I first felt safe with the support of the Romanian community and different organisations. The people supporting us help us to feel differently - hope.*”

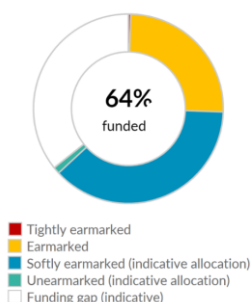
Natalia, a 48-year-old refugee from Ukraine hosted in Romania.

## Funding Situation

As of 4 October 2023

**\$59.5 million**

UNHCR's financial requirements 2023



## Highlights

On 17 October, UNHCR Representative, Mr. Pablo Zapata, met with Ms. Simona Bucura-Oprescu, Romanian Minister of Labour and Social Protection to discuss the situation of Ukrainian refugees in Romania. The Minister and UNHCR discussed the legal residence registration of refugees from Ukraine in the context of improving access to the national social protection schemes. The meeting resulted in concrete paths to enhance refugee inclusion and the protection of vulnerable refugees. In this direction, Romanian language classes will be provided to refugees seeking employment in Romania also through the national employment agency (ANOFM). In addition, Romanian authorities agreed to review the requirements for disability recognition, facilitating access social services for Ukrainian refugees with disabilities.

This week, the Humanitarian Advisor from the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office based in the Republic of Moldova, Ms. Pippa Bown, visited UNHCR's integrated service hub at RomExpo, Bucharest. UNHCR Representative Mr. Pablo Zapata accompanied the visit, sharing the latest information on the refugee response. The visit included meetings with the partners present at RomExpo who gave details about the various services provided to refugees from Ukraine including assistance with documentation, cash assistance, healthcare, protection, and livelihood activities.

## Response

On 18 and 20 October, Ms. Natalia Burduja, author of a Romanian language manual for Ukrainian refugees co-produced by UNHCR and CNRR, launched the book in Constanța and Galați respectively. Some 70 participants including refugees, teachers, local authorities, and humanitarian organisations attended the launches. The manual aims to help Ukrainian refugees to develop Romanian language skills supporting their integration and inclusion in Romania. The manual has also been launched in Suceava.



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Using the vulnerability score jointly developed with 17 organisations which is being currently piloted in the UNHCR's cash for protection programme for vulnerable refugees, so far in October UNHCR verified and conducted vulnerability surveys of some 1,541 refugees living in Baia Mare, Brașov, Bucharest, Constanța, Galați, Iași, Sibiu, Suceava, and Timișoara. So far this year, UNHCR supported more than 53,300 vulnerable refugees with cash assistance to meet their basic needs such as food, clothes, and healthcare.

This week, UNHCR together with Ateliere Fără Frontiere (AFF) held two workshops on legal aspects of entrepreneurship with 23 Ukrainian refugee participants. The workshops dealt with legal aspects (including taxation, and different types of companies) and a Q&A session where participants discussed and developed their business ideas. So far in 2023, more than 660 refugees attended UNHCR-supported language and vocational training.

On 19 and 20 October, UNHCR conducted the detailed planning workshop informing its engagement in Romania for 2024. The workshop prioritised protection and livelihoods interventions for refugees in Romania. Over the past weeks, UNHCR and partners conducted needs assessments that were used to inform UNHCR's programmes in 2024.

*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)*