

ROMANIA

Weekly Update #68

16 October 2023

Key figures

144,761 refugees granted temporary protection in Romania.

83,507 refugees present in Romania (as of 8 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.

“Violence in Ukraine had a great impact on my psyche. I just can't stand it if it happens to me again. And what future awaits my son? Now I live in Romania and I am planning my future here”.

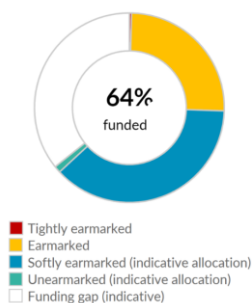
Nina, a 39-year-old refugee from Donetsk, Ukraine hosted in Romania.

Funding Situation

As of 4 October 2023

\$59.5 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2023



Highlights

On 12 October, Mr. Kiyoto Tsuji, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, visited UNHCR's integrated service hub and the donation centre supported by the Municipality of Bucharest at RomExpo. During the visit, the State Secretary and Head of the Department for Emergency Situations (DSU), Dr. Raed Arafat and UNHCR Representative, Mr. Pablo Zapata, briefed him on the refugee situation and presented the services provided by the partners operating at the hub including authorities, UN agencies and NGOs. UNHCR highlighted the importance of key protection services such as counselling, mental health and psychosocial support, and gender-based violence while providing humanitarian aid through the cash for protection programme to vulnerable refugees from Ukraine.



On 12 October, Mr. Kiyoto Tsuji, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan visited UNHCR's integrated service hub for refugees from Ukraine in Bucharest.

Population Movements

The border crossing between Ukraine and Romania at Isaccea reopened on 15 October after its temporary closure following a drone attack on 6 October. The attack led to the sinking of the ferry loading pontoon has been partially repaired allowing for a 50 per cent resumption of the ferry service. UNHCR in Galați and CNRR continue to monitor the situation noting higher than usual movements on alternative routes via Galați and Oancea at border crossing points. Currently there are some 83,500 refugees from Ukraine in Romania.

Response

This week, the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR) and UNHCR hosted the first national conference on the integration of refugees. Some 55 participants from national and local authorities, NGOs, UN agencies were present at the conference. The conference focused on the key socio-economic integration concerns of refugees, including access to education, access to healthcare, and access to employment, as well as the support and protection mechanisms available in Romania. During the discussion the importance of coordination among stakeholders was highlighted, particularly between local and national authorities, and NGOs in the context of a likely reduced availability of funding.

UNHCR, together with CNRR and Sensiblu Foundation, held seven participatory assessment sessions with 53 refugees in Constanța, Galați and Suceava targeting young people between 16-22 years old, and people over 50. Main issues raised among the older refugees included access to healthcare and economic inclusion, while the younger refugees' concerns focused on employment and obtaining documentation for work, professional trainings, and cohesion between refugees and the host community. The information collected during sessions will be used to inform and adapt programmes of UNHCR in 2024.

UNHCR is finalising the Multi-sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA), an inter-agency product within the framework of the 2024 Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP). The MSNA is a collaborative exercise to identify the most pressing needs of refugees from Ukraine across various sectors such as protection, health, education, shelter, livelihoods, food security, and others. The goal is to gather comprehensive data to guide planning, implementation, and evaluation of programmes and interventions.

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)