

ROMANIA

Weekly Update #73

20 November 2023

Key figures

147,570 refugees granted temporary protection in Romania.

83,158 refugees present in Romania (as of 12 November 2023).

58,326 refugees supported with cash assistance in 2023. 43,129 refugees supported in 2022.

86,869 refugees provided with protection counselling services and legal support in 2023. 65,000 refugees assisted in 2022.

6,192 refugees supported with livelihoods and employment services in 2023.

“ I am very grateful that Romania gave my father and I shelter from the war in Ukraine. I managed to find work here and I am very happy that my father and I are safe and Romanians treat us well.”

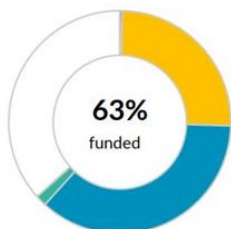
Tetiana, a 37-year-old refugee from Mariupol, Ukraine hosted in Romania.

Funding Situation

As of 31 October 2023

\$59.5 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2023



- Tightly earmarked
- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
- Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
- Funding gap (indicative)

Highlights

On 14 November, UNHCR, the Ministry of Interior, and the Jesuit Refugee Service hosted a roundtable on statelessness in Bucharest to discuss steps to advance towards the completion of the statelessness framework in Romania. The event brought together some 40 participants including the President of the Senate committee on Human Rights, and State Secretaries of the Ministries of Interior and Justice, along with officials from other relevant government institutions, civil society, UN agencies, statelessness experts, and associations of magistrates and lawyers. The participants addressed common challenges and sought ways to complete the existing framework, ensuring improved protection of stateless persons and everyone's right to a nationality. In the opening remarks the UNHCR Representative said that "Romania's capacity to protect and address complex situations ought to benefit stateless persons, as remaining challenges are addressed". Additional information about statelessness and the event is available [here](#).



On 14 November, UNHCR, together with the Ministry of Interior, and JRS organised a roundtable on statelessness at the Parliament in Bucharest.

On 16 November, the Regional Refugee Coordinator from the United States Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, visited UNHCR's integrated service hub and the donation centre of the Municipality of Bucharest at RomExpo. During the visit, UNHCR Senior Operations Officer and the Senior Protection Officer briefed her on the refugee situation and presented the services provided by the 16 partners operating at the centre 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 cash assistance.

Response

This week, UNHCR began verification and enrolment for its winter cash assistance programme for the most vulnerable refugees from Ukraine. So far in November, UNHCR verified and assessed the vulnerability of more than 1,400 refugees living in Baia Mare, Braşov, Bucharest, Constanţa, Galaţi, Iaşi, and Suceava for the programme. So far this year, UNHCR supported more than 58,300 refugees with cash assistance.

UNHCR together with partners distributed 3,484 core-relief items (CRIs), including bedding, clothing, hygiene items, and thermoses to support the winter needs of 1,764 vulnerable refugees in Bucharest, Galaţi, Sibiu, Suceava, Timiş, and Vaslui counties. To understand the needs of refugees UNHCR conducted 33 participatory assessments throughout the country, reaching over 200 refugees.

UNHCR in Timișoara together with AidRom is preparing to welcome 88 Syrian and Afghan refugees arriving from Türkiye through the Emergency Transit Centre (ETC) in view of their further resettlement to a third country. During the past week, refugees at the ETC actively engaged in local cultural activities and a well-being session together with the refugees from Ukraine. So far in 2023, the ETC provided assistance to 160 refugees and has helped more than 3,664 refugees since opening in 2008.

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 \(unhcr.org\)](#)