

## ROMANIA

### Weekly Update #81

29 January 2024

#### Key figures

**151,909 refugees** obtained temporary protection in Romania.

**79,588 refugees** present in Romania.

**59,709 refugees** supported with cash assistance in 2023.

**91,775 refugees** provided with protection counselling services and legal support in 2023 and January 2024.

**6,923 refugees** supported with livelihood and employment services in 2023 and January 2024.

“ I arrived in Romania last year and I was touched by the kindness of its people. In a hotel far from home where I lived, Romanians made me feel at home. As an elderly person, I am grateful for their care.”

Valentina, a 68-year-old refugee from Dnipro, Ukraine, hosted in Romania.

#### Highlights

On 22 and 23 January, Mr Jonathan Le Tocq, External Affairs Minister, States of Guernsey visited UNHCR activities in Bucharest, Romania. During his visit, Mr. Le Tocq met with refugees from Ukraine at the UNHCR's Integrated Service Hub at RomExpo, Bucharest. In addition, the visit included meetings the State Counsellor of the Prime Minister's Office, Mr. Nicolae Comanescu and the Head of Department for Emergency Situation, Mr. Raed Arafat. He also, exchanged with partners working at RomExpo and visited Terre des Hommes (TdH).



22 January 2024, visit of Mr. Le Tocq to child protection activities at TdH in Bucharest.

#### Response

Daily, over 900 refugees from Ukraine continue to receive services and assistance in RomExpo, Bucharest. The UNHCR Integrated Service Hub receiving daily some 200-250 refugees, currently hosts 14 partners, including authorities, notably Ministry of Interior/ General Inspectorate for Immigration, UN agencies and NGOs and offers a variety of services such as documentation, cash assistance and protection counselling among others. In addition, approximately 700 refugees from Ukraine visit on a daily basis the Donations Centre of the Municipality of Bucharest, which is supported financially and with donations, by UNHCR. At the centres refugees can find clothes, hygiene items and food. In 2023 alone, the centre of the Municipality distributed 1,570,000 items to refugees from Ukraine.

As part of its winterization programme, UNHCR supported over 1,330 refugees from Ukraine with core-relief items (CRIs) throughout Romania in the final months of 2023. During the week, UNHCR has delivered 2,311 core-relief items (CRIs) including clothing, bedding, hygiene kits, blankets, pillows, towels, and thermoses to vulnerable refugees from Ukraine in Suceava, Galati, Constanta, Braila and Timisoara.

On 16 January, a refresher training on protection monitoring and profiling was conducted for 15 partner staff who regularly conduct protection monitoring and profiling, both with the Ukrainian population and with asylum-seekers at Romania's reception centres. Protection monitoring and profiling are key to ensuring evidence-based programming, understanding movement patterns, and identifying protection concerns.

UNHCR together with authorities and partners continues to support Romanian authorities in the functioning of the Emergency Transit Centre (ETC) in Timisoara. Since its establishment, the ETC facilitated the resettlement and departure of 3,753 refugees to a third country. At the ETC, refugees who are particularly vulnerable or are at risk in their first country of asylum, are hosted until their resettlement to a third country. This week, UNHCR hosted a visit from the Irish Refugee Resettlement Programme (IRRP), Immigration Refugee and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), and the Bucharest Migration Programme Manager at the ETC, with a view to foster the use of the centre by these countries.

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 \(unhcr.org\)](#)