

September 2022

KEY FIGURES

Some **18,225** refugees from Ukraine enrolled for cash assistance in Romania.

90% of the refugees enrolled are women and children.

5 enrollment centres in Brasov, Bucharest, Galati, Iasi and Suceava.

Cash has been transferred to over **16,881** people



UNHCR is accelerating the enrolment for multi-purpose cash assistance through field mobile teams in various counties across Romania. This will enable a comprehensive and harmonized response to the refugees settling in Romania and reaching persons with specific needs ahead of the upcoming harsh winter.

Cash Assistance has significantly contributed to the protection and inclusion of refugees from Ukraine who intend to remain in Romania, by increasing their self-sufficiency and reducing risk of abuse.

Pablo Zapata
UNHCR Representative



A refugee from Ukraine getting enrolled to receive cash assistance from UNHCR. People with special needs are being prioritized. © UNHCR

Why cash?

UNHCR's Cash Assistance Programme is designed in coordination with the Government and complementary to its efforts to support refugees from Ukraine. It has been implemented in close coordination with programmes of other members of the Cash Working Group, which is co-chaired by UNHCR. Multipurpose cash assistance is one of the most efficient and effective ways to support people forced to flee, especially in fast-changing emergencies. It serves as a transitional safety net pending the individual's ability to find a job or be included in national social protection schemes. Using secure financial technology combined with strict data protection measures, UNHCR provides refugees with cash securely and quickly. Families can purchase goods and services from local businesses which boosts the economy. Most importantly, cash assistance respects the dignity of choice and independence of people forced to flee, and gives them a sense of normality and ownership, allowing them to decide what they need most to support their family.

What support do refugees get?

Eligible refugees who enrol for cash assistance receive RON 568 (approx. USD 120) per month for three months, equal to the amount provided to refugees by the Government of Romania. UNHCR intends to provide transitional cash to support basic needs of refugees fleeing war. This amount has been agreed with relevant actors through the Cash Working Group. To help the refugees prepare for the upcoming winter season, UNHCR is planning to further support them with additional cash-based interventions based on specific vulnerability criteria.

What is the link between cash assistance and protection?

UNHCR's cash assistance programme in Romania is an opportunity to reach refugees, particularly those with specific needs, and offer them additional support and protection services, like counselling, psychosocial first aid and referral to other national services. The General Inspectorate of Immigration

has a permanent presence at the UNHCR RomExpo cash assistance enrolment centre for issuance of temporary protection status to refugees, supported by the European Union Asylum Agency, creating synergy between national protection and UNHCR's multipurpose cash assistance.

Whom do we help?

We assist Ukrainian or third-country nationals displaced from Ukraine because of the conflict, who have stayed in Romania for at least seven days and are in the following situation:

- A family with one or more persons with a disability and/or serious medical condition.
- Single parent with no other adult member (between 18 to 60-year-old).
- A family headed by a person above 60-year-old with no other adult member (between 18 to 60-year-old).
- A family with one or more children (under the age of 18) including child(ren) (under the age of 18) separated from their parents or legal caregiver.
- A family with a pregnant woman.
- Single women who are alone.

REFUGEES WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS

1028 refugees with specific needs enrolled for cash assistance, including **610** people with serious medical condition and **263** people with disabilities.

How does it work?

1. Refugees request an appointment via help.unhcr.org/Romania.
2. They receive an appointment by SMS.
3. Refugees are invited to a UNHCR-run enrolment centre, where they are asked to provide their family composition, the current location of stay, etc., and present their identity documents.
4. At the RomExpo enrolment centre in Bucharest, refugees from Ukraine can directly approach UNHCR for assistance. If eligible, they can get enrolled for cash assistance instantly without any appointment request.
5. UNHCR has also deployed mobile enrolments teams in various cities including Cluj, Baia Mare and Satu Mare, near the border with Ukraine.
6. UNHCR uses biometrics to ensure there is no duplication of assistance within and outside the country, particularly as its programme is rolled out at regional level.
7. If refugees have specific needs (for instance, older people or separated children) or otherwise are in need of support, they are referred for further counselling to a psychosocial counsellor, safe spaces, and other services.
8. After enrolling with UNHCR, refugees receive an SMS containing a pick-up code notifying them that cash assistance is ready.
9. Refugees go to any of the financial service provider "Smith & Smith" locations and show their identity documents and the unique pick-up code.
10. Once confirmed, refugees will be able to withdraw cash benefits completely, and up to three months.

Who are our partners?

NGO partners include AIDRom, which has supported the programme since its pilot phase, and human resource partner include Adecco. IKEA donated furniture for the RomExpo cash assistance enrolment centre.

What's next?

- UNHCR is piloting the use of bank transfer as the preferred delivery modality going forward.

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