ROMANIA

Weekly Update #25

10 December 2022

Key figures

100,822 refugees currently in Romania (as of 10 December 2022)

94,380 refugees registered for temporary protection in Romania.

35,533 refugees supported with multi-purpose cash assistance.

58,767 refugees provided with information and counselling in person or over the phone

14,146 refugees supported to travel to Romania from Ukraine-Moldova border through fast-track transfers.

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We found silence here in Romania. There is no sound of explosion. We even started to get scared of the sound of thunder or fireworks. Now were getting used to the silence. Silence means peace.

- a refugee mother from Ukraine during an interview at RomExpo.

Highlights

UNHCR briefing on refugee response in 2022 and plans for 2023, held in Bucharest on 9 December.

On 9 December, accompanied by the State Secretary Dr Arafat and the State Counsellor Ms Turza (remotely), the UNHCR Representative Pablo Zapata presented UNHCR's key achievements during the emergency response in 2022 and outlined the main protection priorities for 2023. Representatives from nineteen embassies and three UN Agencies participated in the briefing. In 2023 UNHCR will continue to support the refugees from Ukraine in accessing protection and solution with a focus on social cohesion and overall social and economic inclusion. In 2023, UNHCR will require US$ 59.5 Million to support refugees and protection activities in Romania.

The UNHCR RomExpo multipurpose centre continues to attract hundreds of refugees daily to access vital services. On 7 December, the Austrian Federal Minister for Women, Family, Integration and Media, Ms. Susanne Raab, visited it together with State Counsellor Ms. Madalina Turza. On 9 December, the UK Ambassador H.E. Andrew Noble visited it as well accompanied by UKAid Humanitarian Advisors. The UNHCR Representative Pablo Zapata presented the services present in RomExpo.

Response

The number of refugees present in Romania continues to increase, reaching nearly a hundred thousand individuals in the country. This is the highest number of refugees present in the country since 24 February. The increase in numbers is believed to be driven by the attacks on energy infrastructure in Ukraine and the gradual deterioration of weather conditions. UNHCR, in coordination with authorities and partners, continues to be present at main border crossing points with Ukraine and Moldova providing counselling and humanitarian aid.

UNHCR, together with partners, is responding to harsh weather conditions by distributing almost 5,000 core-relief items (CRIs) throughout Romania. These items include hygiene kits, sleeping bags, bed linen sets and blankets aimed to address the needs of the most vulnerable refugees. This week, UNHCR Field Offices distributed CRI's in Isaccea, Brăila, Tulcea, Satu Mare, and Baia Mare.

A new Blue Dot hub has been opened in Bucharest, in a renovated centre of the child protection authority (DGASPC). At Blue Dots, refugees can access services such as mental health and psychosocial support, art therapy sessions for children and youth, support with medical referral, mother and baby and child-friendly spaces, rooms dedicated to supporting on-line education, morning day-care for children with working parents etc. There are total 8 Blue Dots in Romania located in Galati, Sighet, Siret, Brasov, Husi, Isaccea, and Bucharest (Plevnei and Sector 3). Visit the dedicated webpage of Digital Blue Dot.

UNHCR continues to enrol refugees for cash assistance. Refugees in Constanta and Cluj were enrolled though mobile registration teams this week. More than 40,000 refugees have been enrolled in Romania since the beginning of the Ukraine refugee situation.

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 2022 programmes. For more detail: https://reporting.unhcr.org/romania-funding-2022