

ROMANIA

Weekly Update #26

16 December 2022

Key figures

101,720 refugees currently in Romania (as of 14 December 2022)

96,950 refugees registered for temporary protection in Romania. (as of 14 December 2022)

43,129 refugees supported with multi-purpose cash assistance. (as of 15 December 2022)

60,409 refugees provided with information and counselling in person or over the phone

14,262 refugees supported to travel to Romania from Ukraine-Moldova border through fast-track transfers.



My mother is 80-year-old. Back in 2014, she had to flee her home. Just when she started restoring her life, she had to flee again in March 2022. Now she is safe here in Bucharest, but always dreaming of returning home.

- a refugee woman hosted in Bucharest

Highlights

On 13 December, Ms Leyla Kayacik - Council of Europe Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration visited RomExpo during her fact-finding mission to Romania. Ms Kayacik was accompanied by Mr. Toni Greblă, Prefect of Bucharest. The UNHCR Representative Mr Pablo Zapata walked her through the services provided by authorities and organizations present at RomExpo, including European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) and Romanian General Inspectorate for Immigration (GII). On average, 500-600 refugees are assisted at the RomExpo centre daily. UNHCR also accompanied Ms Kayacik to a refugees' accommodation centre operated by the child and social protection authority (DGASPC) to meet with vulnerable refugee families.

Response

With the increased number of arrivals in recent weeks, UNHCR has enhanced its cash enrolment activities in all five cash enrolment centres across Romania, as well as through mobile registration teams. As of 15 December, over 43,129 refugees have received cash assistance from UNHCR, including 8,800 people with specific vulnerabilities. Women and children represent 90 per cent of those receiving cash.

UNHCR is maintaining communication with communities through a dedicated Telegram channel with the support of the Refugee UN Volunteers. Through this channel, UNHCR is disseminating key information on various services provided by UNHCR and partners. The Telegram channel currently has more than 4,600 subscribers.

To support the refugees in preparing for the harsh winter, UNHCR continued distributing core-relief items (CRIs), including blankets, bed linens and hygiene kits. This week, in coordination with the local Department of Social Assistance, UNHCR teams in Galați and Suceava supported more than 150 refugees in Brăila, Galați, Piatra Neamt and Baia Mare.

UNHCR supports refugees from Ukraine in their economic inclusion in Romania. Currently there around 400 refugees enrolled in Romanian language courses supported by UNHCR and its partner HEKS/EPER. In addition, UNHCR and partners are also providing employment counselling and coaching to prepare refugees for job interviews.

Coordination

UNHCR is enhancing its coordination efforts at local level in Romania. On 12 and 14 December, UNHCR hosted two Refugee Support Coordination meetings in Galați and Constanta respectively, with an aim to harmonise coordination arrangements and principles. The events were attended by more than seventy participants representing local authorities, NGOs and partners. On 8 December, UNHCR team in Galați attended a meeting of the Livelihoods Working Group (WG) in Constanta to discuss the 2023 strategy for Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion WG.

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>



Elderly refugee hosted in Galați enrolling for UNHCR's cash assistance.