

ROMANIA

Annual Overview

31 December 2022

Key figures

106,786 refugees*
currently in Romania

102,729 refugees**
registered for
temporary protection
in Romania.

43,129 refugees
supported with multi-
purpose cash
assistance.

65,000 refugees
provided with
information and
counselling in person
or over the phone

14,636 refugees
supported to travel to
Romania from
Ukraine-Moldova
border through fast-
track transfers.

**16 partners
operating in 12
counties**
implementing a wide
range of activities.

6,000 refugees
reached through
employment website,
livelihoods counselling
and Romanian
language course.

**62 temporary
reception centres in
10 counties** assessed
for transitory
accommodation.



Refugees receiving counselling support at the UNHCR multiservice centre in Bucharest, Romania.

Operational Context

The international armed conflict in Ukraine that erupted on 24 February 2022 triggered one of the fastest-growing displacement and humanitarian crises on record, pushing millions into internal displacement and abroad in search of safety. **Over 2.46 million border crossings from Ukraine and Moldova into Romania** have been recorded since 24 February 2022. **As of 31 December 2022, a total of 106,708 refugees from Ukraine are present in the country and 102,729 refugees registered for temporary protection in Romania**, as per data from the Government of Romania. Women and children represent 80 per cent of the refugee population.

UNHCR, together with UN agencies and NGOs, are supporting the government's response through Inter-Agency coordination in the context of the **Refugee Coordination Model** and a **Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) – April 2022** that aligns with the government's priorities and activities reflected on the **National Plan of Measures - June 2022** for the Protection and Inclusion of Displaced Persons from Ukraine Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection in Romania.

UNHCR in Romania is responding to the needs of refugees from Ukraine through its field offices in Suceava (bordering with Ukraine), and Galati (bordering with Moldova and Ukraine), its country office in Bucharest and field presence in Iasi (border with Moldova). UNHCR is also present at the Emergency Transit Centre for refugees located in Timisoara. In addition, UNHCR is implementing project through 16 national and international partners NGOs in 12 counties across Romania.

Response

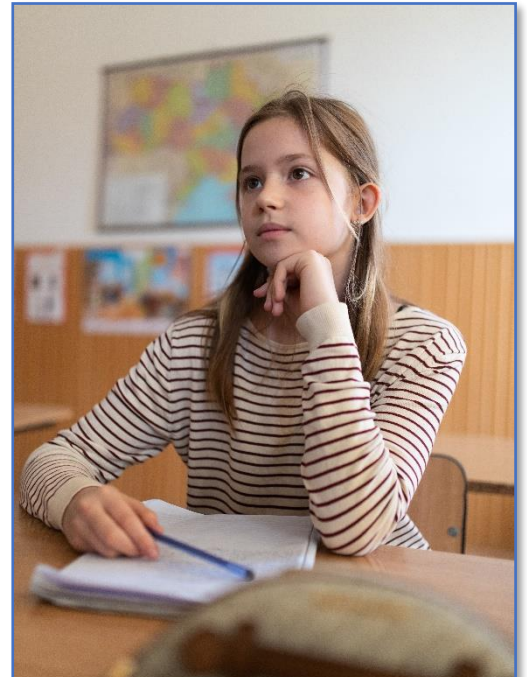
Protection: UNHCR worked with authorities and partners to promote legal and physical protection of refugees. During 2022, UNHCR's Protection work in Romania included information provision, communication with communities, identification of people with specific needs and referrals to specialised services, legal counselling on temporary protection and advocacy for inclusion, with tailored interventions for LGBTIQ+ community, people with disabilities, older persons, minorities, and women and girls at risk. Key results of UNHCR's Protection response in 2022 are as follows:

- **64,587 refugees** were provided with information, legal assistance and counselling in person or hotline;
- **700 officials** of local authorities, partners and volunteers trained on core concept of refugee protection, including child protection, prevention of and response to gender-based violence, PSEA etc;
- **44 organizations** are coordinating through the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Network;
- **14,781** refugees are reached through social media dedicated channels, including Telegram and Facebook; and
- **8 Blue Dot hubs** are operated across Romania jointly with UNICEF. UNHCR's support includes support in the IT infrastructure.

UNHCR is leading the Inter-Agency Protection Working Group to help around 20 organizations coordinate their protection response and avoid duplication of efforts. UNHCR, together with partners Plan International/ADRA, Terre Des Hommes and Autism Voices, have been working in Bucharest, Suceava, Brasov, Constanta, Galati and Iasi, to support children with specific needs, establish child-friendly spaces, ensure psychosocial support, raise awareness and enhance capacity of the authorities, partner staff, and volunteers. UNHCR, jointly with UNICEF and partners, also advocated on access to education for refugee children from Ukraine to ensure that no child is left behind and - through some child protection interventions - complemented the response from UNICEF and other partners in education.

Multipurpose Cash Assistance: Cash Assistance Programme is designed in coordination with the Government to complement its efforts to support the refugees from Ukraine. It serves as a transitional safety-net pending the individual's ability to secure employment or be included in national social protection schemes. More than **43,000 refugees** have received cash assistance. In addition to five cash enrolment centres operational in Brasov, Bucharest, Galati, Iasi and Suceava, UNHCR also enrolled refugees through mobile enrolment teams in various cities hosting large number of refugees, including Constanta, Baia Mare, Satu Mare, Cluj.

Border Monitoring: Since the onset of the Ukrainian refugee emergency, UNHCR established Field Offices in Suceava and Galati and a Field Unit in Iasi that monitors the border crossings with Ukraine and Moldova and some areas hosting large number of refugees. UNHCR also has a presence in Timisoara that supports the Romanian authorities to manage the Emergency Transit Centre.



Refugee student attending school in Bucharest, Romania.



5 enrolment centres in Bucharest, Brasov, Galati, Suceava and Iasi. Mobile enrolment teams across Romania.

Socio-economic inclusion and livelihoods: Together with the National Employment Agency (ANOFM), and partner NGOs, UNHCR is working to facilitate socio-economic inclusion and self-reliance. During 2022:

- **390 refugees** were supported with Romanian language course;
- **400 refugees** were supported with employment coaching/counselling; and
- **6,000 refugees** were reached through Jobs4UKR website.

Winterization: UNHCR, in coordination with authorities and partners, is stepping up its winterization support. UNHCR and partners are prepositioning and distributing humanitarian aid, including blanket, bed linens and hygiene kits to assist refugees from Ukraine during winter, as well as assessing sites for potential transit accommodation. UNHCR is also providing a top-up cash assistance to support the most vulnerable families prepare for the harsh winter.

Fast-track transfer: A total of 14,636 refugees have been supported to travel to Romania from Ukraine-Moldova border through fast-track transfers in partnership with Department of Emergency Situation and IOM. This project provided refugees from Ukraine with safe and dignified transportation from Palanca border crossing point between Ukraine and Moldova, to Romanian border and further to Bucharest. Palanca has been receiving high numbers of new arrivals, primarily from southern regions of Ukraine, since the onset of the armed conflict.



UNHCR supported Fast Track transfers from through the Green Corridor.

Contingency Preparedness: While responding to the urgent needs of the refugees arriving in Romania, in the context of deteriorating security situation in Ukraine, UNHCR, jointly with the Department of Emergency Situation (DSU) assessed 62 sites located in 10 counties to ensure timely accommodation and basic services in case of a sudden mass influx. UNHCR also prepositioned more than 600,000 core relief items, including tents, blankets, and hygiene kits near border areas and in Bucharest to support new arrivals.

Glimpse of the stories from 2022



[Budding Ukrainian Game Designer Draws Inspiration in Romania](#)



[UNHCR Welcomes Romania's National Plan of Measures.](#)



[Ukrainian Teacher in Romania is Determined to Remove Barriers.](#)

Working with partners

UNHCR carried out a wide range of activities through 16 implementing partners operating in 12 counties. Activities carried out by partner CNRR, TDH, Autism Voice, Sensiblu Foundation, FONSS, AFF, ACTED (IMPACT/REACH), IOM, Plan Int. with ADRA Romania, HEKS/EPER, PATRIR, CCMS, AIDRom, Project Voiajor, ICAR and Estuar Foundation include:



Protection monitoring at borders



Support for people with disabilities



Information provision, legal counselling, and psychosocial support



Support self-reliance/employment



Gender-based violence



Enhance inclusion and wellbeing



Child protection risks



Needs assessment and information management

Inter-Agency Coordination:

To ensure effective coordination among the humanitarian partners implementing the RRP, UNHCR established a robust Inter-Agency coordination platform. The coordination architecture is made up of 6 sectoral working groups, 3 sub-working groups, 2 task forces, and one network, led by Inter-Agency leads and co-leads. The sector working groups are meeting regularly on a weekly or bi-weekly basis making the structure flexible and effective. UNHCR and partners are working closely with authorities to ensure complementarity and synergy between the government Working Groups and the Inter-Agency coordination structure of the RRP in support to the National Plan of Measures.

Information Management and Needs Assessments:

Throughout 2022, UNHCR has conducted Intention Surveys, Post-Distribution Monitoring Surveys, Protection Profiling exercise, Multi-Sector Needs Assessment, Area-based Assessment to facilitate evidence-based planning of the response by UNHCR, relevant authorities as well as the partners implementing the Refugee Response Plan and National Plan of Measures.

Plans and needs for 2023

In 2023, UNHCR plans to sustain the humanitarian response to ensure protection and solution for the refugees from Ukraine. The total funding requirement for UNHCR in Romania would be USD 59.5 million. The priorities for 2023 are as follows:

- Maintain social cohesion through programmes and advocacy efforts.
- Enhance community-based protection, ensure preventions of and response to gender-based violence, and child protection risks.
- Promote economic inclusion through career counselling, language courses.
- Coordinating the refugee response together with authorities – RRP for 2023.
- Winter and emergency preparedness.
- Facilitate mid-long-term protection and inclusion of refugees into the Romanian society.

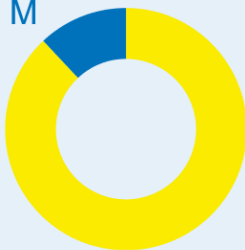


Refugees from Ukraine visiting UNHCR's integrated service hub at RomExpo, Bucharest.

Financial information (29 December 2022)

Financial requirements USD 147.4 M

Funding gap
16%
23.4 M



Funded
84%
124 M

UNHCR is grateful for the support from our top government donors of unearmarked, softly earmarked and earmarked funding:

Australia | Austria | Belgium | Canada | Denmark | France | Germany | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States of America

UNHCR is also grateful for the generous contributions from private individual and the private sector.

CONTACTS:

Alberto Bolzan
 External Relations Officer
bolzan@unhcr.org

Showvik Das Tamal
 Associate Reporting Officer
tamal@unhcr.org

Gabriela Leu
 Assistant Communications Officer
leu@unhcr.org

LINKS: [REGIONAL DATA PORTAL](#) – [ROMANIA PORTAL](#) – [UNHCR ROMANIA HELP PAGE](#) – [TWITTER](#) – [FACEBOOK](#)