

# ROMANIA

## Weekly Update #36

## 3 March 2023

### Key figures

**117,028 refugees** granted temporary protection in Romania (as of 19 February)

**110,985 refugees** in Romania (as of 19 February)

**10,840 refugees** supported with cash assistance in 2023. 43,129 refugees supported in 2022.

**15,489 refugees** provided with protection counselling services and legal support in 2023. 65,000 refugees assisted since 2022.

**628 refugees** supported with fast-track transfers from Moldova to Romania in 2023 and 14,636 in 2022.



My seven-year-old son Sasha and I fled Odessa in March 2022. Finding an affordable accommodation has been difficult. UNHCR's cash assistance helped us with rent and basic needs. Thanks to the cash programme, I was able to buy winter shoes for Sasha.

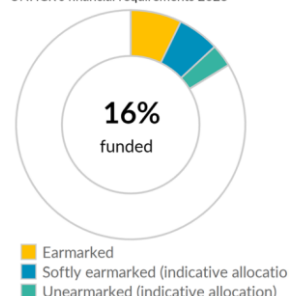
- Olena, a refugee mother from Ukraine in Iasi.

### Funding Situation

As of 28 February 2023

**\$59.5 million**

UNHCR's financial requirements 2023



[www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)

### Highlight

On 3 March, Mr Lucian-Nicolae Bode, Minister of Internal Affairs conferred the honorary distinction "Badge of Honour of the Department for Emergency Situations" to UNHCR Romania for its role in civil protection activities. During the event, Mr Pablo Zapata, UNHCR Representative received this recognition on behalf of the organization and thanked the authorities for their support to refugees from Ukraine. Public officials and other institutions were similarly awarded this Badge of Honor. The event was held in conjunction with the 90th anniversary of the establishment of Civil Protection in Romania.

### Response

UNHCR continues to support refugees from Ukraine with livelihoods opportunities in Romania. UNHCR, together with partners such as HEKS / EPER Romania Foundation, Jobs 4 Ukraine (J4UKR), and Asociația Ateliere Fără Frontiere (AFF), is providing language trainings, employment counselling, and support in developing CV. Since January 2023, UNHCR and partners assisted over one thousand refugees with counselling and livelihood services.

Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) of refugees and other persons of concerns is a priority for UNHCR in Romania. On 3 March, UNHCR organized a training on PSEA for all its staff. The aim of the training is to support and provide a safe, trusted, respectful and inclusive environment where refugees feel safe, heard, equipped and empowered. A second training for UNHCR staff is now planned for 9 March. UNHCR is also ensuring that all partner organizations are also provided with similar trainings on PSEA and adopt internal strategies that prevent SEA.

This week, UNHCR's partner Sensiblu Foundation organized five support group discussions for around 50 refugee women and girls in Suceava and Bucharest. During these discussions, refugee women shared their experiences, including on language courses, health care, employment, activities for children, documentation, and legal services. During the sessions, they learned about the services, such as counselling, referral, psychosocial support available for them in Romania. In addition, UNHCR and partners are using group discussion to facilitate inclusion and promote harmonious coexistence between refugees and their host communities.

UNHCR and partners continue providing information and counselling services to refugees covering a wide range of topics including legal assistance, temporary protection, accommodation, social services, cash assistance etc. Since the beginning of the year nearly 15,500 refugees have received this support at border crossings, transit centres, information points, as well as through hotline numbers. Among them nearly 9,000 refugees received counselling services in person. Furthermore, nearly 18,500 people visited the [UNHCR Romania Help webpage](#) and [Digital Blue Dot hubs](#).

### Coordination

On 22 February, the gender-based violence (GBV) sub-working group of the inter-agency coordination platform held a working session in order to update the GBV referral mechanism. In addition, the GBV sub-working group is mapping services and identifying potential gaps in the GBV response. Plans are also ongoing to establish referrals with local protection partners in various counties, such as in Cluj.

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 \(unhcr.org\)](#)



UNHCR and partners supporting women refugees from Ukraine in their endeavours to enhance self-reliance.