

# ROMANIA

## Weekly Update #39

24 March 2023

### Key figures

**123,761 refugees** granted temporary protection in Romania (as of 19 March)

**110,012 refugees** in Romania (as of 18 March)

**14,188 refugees** supported with cash assistance in 2023. 43,129 refugees supported in 2022.

**19,071 refugees** provided with protection counselling services and legal support in 2023. 65,000 refugees assisted since 2022.

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



I was a school teacher in the Chernihiv region of Ukraine. After the invasion began, my family home was destroyed by shelling. My son and I spent three months trying to survive without regular access to power or running water, before finally escaping to Kyiv and taking shelter in Romania. I am still trying to support the children with their education.

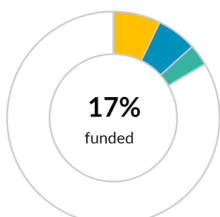
- a refugee mother from Ukraine in Bucharest.

### Funding Situation

As of 14 March 2023

**\$59.5 million**

UNHCR's financial requirements 2023



■ Earmarked  
■ Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)  
■ Unearmarked (indicative allocation)

### Highlight

On 24 March, UNHCR Representative attended an event organized by the Nicolina Humanitarian and Social Assistance Centre for Refugees in Iasi. The Nicolina centre offers key services to refugees from Ukraine including accommodation, medical counselling, language courses, playground for children, mother and baby space, social assistance services by qualified social workers, etc. On a daily basis the centre supports around one hundred refugees and is supported by UNHCR through its partner FONSS (a social services federation of NGOs). The event was organized by the centre jointly with FONSS and counted with the participation of 30 individuals from authorities, NGOs and refugees from Ukraine.



UNHCR Representative Mr. Pablo Zapata addressing participants at the Nicolina Humanitarian and Social Assistance Centre for Refugees in Iasi.

On 20 March, the Irish State Minister for Heritage and Electoral Reform Mr. Malcolm Noonan, and the Irish Ambassador to Romania H.E. Mr. Paul McGarry visited UNHCR's integrated service hub for refugees at RomExpo, Bucharest. During the visit, the Irish delegation had an opportunity to observe the wide range of services available there. In addition, on 21 March a delegation of members of Parliament of Austria visited RomExpo. UNHCR together with the Department of Emergency Situations (DSU) and partners jointly facilitated this visit.

### Response

So far in 2023, a total of 14,178 refugees have been enrolled in UNHCR's cash for winter programme. Enrolment for the UNHCR's winter cash assistance programme in Romania will end on 27 March. UNHCR is now re-designing its cash programme targeting refugees with specific vulnerability criteria and with a view of complementing the social assistance provided by authorities under an expected new governmental programme. In April, UNHCR, in coordination with the cash working group, will continue supporting refugees with protection services, core-relief items and/or referring them to partners for cash assistance.

From 13 to 17 March 5,272 core relief items were distributed by UNHCR in Constanta, Botosani and Suceava, including winter clothes, family hygiene kits, blankets and bed linens. Moreover, over 40,000 litres of drinking water have been delivered to Radauti Transit centre, hosting over 150 refugees.

UNHCR is undertaking a planning exercise to develop a multi-year strategy for 2024-26 for the refugee response in Romania through situation analysis and assumptions. The strategy will prioritise protection and inclusion of refugees in Romania, with particular consideration to the volatile situation in Ukraine. During the planning process, UNHCR will consult with authorities, partners, refugees and stakeholders in order to develop a comprehensive multi-year strategy for the operation.

### Coordination

UNHCR is leading the Inter-Agency platform comprising 34 appealing partners including 6 UN Agencies, 14 national NGOs and 14 international NGOs implementing humanitarian activities for the refugees from Ukraine through the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) 2023. The RRP provides an opportunity to its partners to coordinate their activities that ultimately supports the national efforts outlined in the [National Plan of Measures](#). 350,000 people are targeted for a wide range of services with a financial need of US\$ 153.6 million. A number of appealing partners are reporting significant financial gaps, particularly in the field of GBV, anti-trafficking and education affecting the overall implementation of the RRP 2023.

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 \(unhcr.org\)](#)