

# ROMANIA

Weekly Update #44

28 April 2023

## Key figures

### 129,438 refugees

granted temporary protection in Romania (as of 23 April 2023)

**101,341 refugees** in Romania (as of 17 April 2023)

### 18,984 refugees

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

### 28,348 refugees

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

### 1,140 refugees

supported with livelihoods &amp; employment services in 2023.



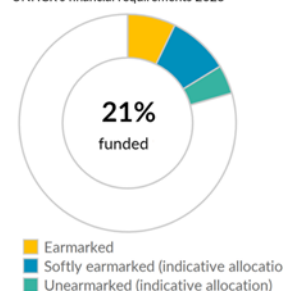
*I came to RomExpo for medical help as my daughter had a panic attack. We were directed to the psychologist and now we are attending sessions every week, which help my daughter to be more open and calmer. We begin a new life in Romania. – Svetlana A refugee mother hosted in Bucharest.*

## Funding Situation

As of 27 April 2023

**\$59.5 million**

UNHCR's financial requirements 2023



## Highlight

On 26 April, a new [Government Decision](#) established conditions and mechanisms for providing assistance to the refugees from Ukraine granted temporary protection in Romania. Through this programme, from 1 May Romanian authorities will provide each refugee family with 2,000 RON and single refugees with 750 RON per month to cover accommodation expenses. In addition, each refugee will receive 600 RON per month to cover food expenses. In the first month, the assistance will be granted without any condition other than having Temporary Protection in Romania. However, for subsequent three months it will be subject to registration for employment through the national employment agency (ANOFM) and enrolment of children in any of a variety of schools or educational programs. From the fifth month until the end of 2023, refugees will be eligible to receive funds for accommodation expenses only if they are employed and the children are enrolled into schools. Elderly people (above 65 years), persons with disability, care givers of children (below two years), and care givers of children with disability (below three years) have been exempted from employment and/or school enrolment requirements.

## Response

To support the most vulnerable refugees from Ukraine to transition to the new system, UNHCR is planning to assist 35,000 refugees with one instalment of multipurpose cash assistance (568 RON per person). Cash assistance provided by UNHCR is meant to support vulnerable refugees, such as persons with specific needs, during the transitional period in which they will be able to access the new assistance programme set up by authorities. The financial assistance to be provided by UNHCR has been discussed and agreed with other relevant actors within the Cash Working Group, as well as the Basic Needs Working Group of the Inter-Agency coordination platform. UNHCR has started to prepare this one-off cash assistance launching a verification process intended to ascertain the presence in the country of refugees already enrolled in UNHCR's cash programmes.

UNHCR is raising awareness among refugee communities on the new government-supported programme. Over the past weeks, UNHCR and its partner CNRR organized two focus group discussions with 50 refugees in Baia Mare and Suceava respectively. During the discussions, refugees expressed potential challenges relating to the new programme particularly about potential rejection to open accounts with Romanian banks. UNHCR and partners are also providing counselling services in person and through hotlines and disseminating information through a dedicated [Telegram channel](#). Through this platform, UNHCR disseminated inter alia, a governmental brochure explaining the new system. In 2023, a total of 28,348 refugees have been assisted with various protection services and legal support.

On 19 April, UNHCR together with HEKS/EPER conducted a workshop for 16 refugees from Ukraine seeking start-up business in Romania.

The workshop focused on how to prepare a business plan and apply for the start-up grants currently available through partners. Furthermore, UNHCR through partners continued to provide career coaching and counselling as well as language classes and trainings to refugees. So far in 2023, over 1,100 refugees have been assisted with livelihoods and employment services.

During the last two weeks, UNHCR together with Sensiblu Foundation conducted five socialisation discussions focused on prevention of and response to gender-based violence in Bucharest, Suceava, Cluj, Galati and Constanta with the participation of nearly 170 refugee women, girls and boys. The discussion covered several topics, including mental health and abuse, issues among teenagers, gender equality, harassment and abuse in social media and in schools, and challenges accessing the labour market for women.

This week, UNHCR in Galați distributed core-relief items (CRIs) to 600 Ukrainian refugees living in Năvodari, Constanța county. In 2023, UNHCR distributed 190,000 CRIs such as clothes, blankets, hygiene kits, cooking pots, water, etc.

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 \(unhcr.org\)](#)



Workshop on starting up business in Romania, facilitated by HEKS/EPER on 19 April.