

ROMANIA

Weekly Update #53

3 July 2023

Key figures

136,403 refugees granted temporary protection in Romania.

95,390 refugees present in Romania (as of 25 June 2023).

43,891 refugees supported with cash assistance in 2023. 43,129 refugees supported in 2022.

48,537 refugees provided with protection counselling services and legal support in 2023. 65,000 refugees assisted in 2022.

3,178 refugees supported with livelihoods & employment services in 2023.



No matter how difficult it was to become a refugee, the experience strangely brought a lot of strength to make positive changes in my life. I told myself that if I quit, no one else can improve my life. I want to feel involved in the everyday life of where I am.

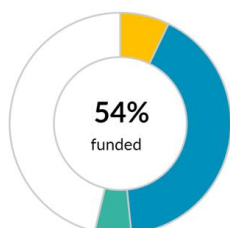
-Natalia, a refugee woman from Ukraine hosted in Romania.

Funding Situation

As of 27 June 2023

\$59.5 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2023



Highlights

As of 3 July, UNHCR in coordination with partners, is piloting its new **Cash for Protection programme in Romania**. UNHCR has initiated its outreach to the most vulnerable refugees from Ukraine to roll out enrolment based on the new vulnerability scorecard adopted in mid-June 2023. The pilot programme targets 400 vulnerable cases/families. The assistance will be disbursed in four monthly instalments of 630 RON per refugee per month to support them meet the most pressing needs (food, medicines, hygiene etc). This Cash for Protection programme was adopted following consultations with partners and authorities to avoid duplication of efforts. So far in 2023, UNHCR has supported 43,891 refugees from Ukraine with cash assistance.

On 3 July, UNHCR launched an awareness campaign to sustain refugee inclusion and social cohesion. The campaign aims to remind the public of the solidarity expressed in welcoming and supporting refugees from Ukraine and cultivate a sense of social cohesion, as refugees are advancing towards inclusion in Romania. The campaign will include digital engagement, outdoor/indoor advertisement (including ads in panels in six cities, radio ads and TV ads on multiple TV stations starting from mid-campaign, and press coverage. It has been developed through consultation with a wide range of stakeholders and will run for the upcoming six weeks.

Response

The inter-agency coordination platform, led by UNHCR, liaised with the 34 partners of the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) on their funding situation and its impact on programming. The current situation indicates that half of the appealing partners need to adjust their programming due to funding gaps and particularly local NGOs are severely affected. Sectors most affected are Protection (activities on response to gender-based violence, counter-trafficking etc) and Health. The 2023 RRP required US\$ 153.6M for activities in Romania, of which 17 per cent are funded. The results of this analysis will be shared in the coming weeks with relevant stakeholders.

On 28 June, UNHCR and Partner HEKS/EPER organised a job fair in Cluj for the refugees from Ukraine who are seeking employment in Romania. 13 employers were present at the job fair. Nearly 250 refugees, mostly women, visited the job fair and learned about the available opportunities. Preparing the refugees from Ukraine for the job market in Romania remains a priority for UNHCR and its partners. So far in 2023, UNHCR and partners supported more than 3,150 refugees from Ukraine with various livelihood services (counselling, language cases, trainings etc) in Romania.

UNHCR continues engaging with refugees and learn about their priority needs for greater inclusion.

The insights and perspectives received from refugees will inform UNHCR's planning and implementation of targeted assistance programmes to address those challenges effectively. Last week, UNHCR met with over 20 refugees to find out more about the challenges that refugees encounter in Constanta and Galati. The main concerns raised during this meeting included limited access to healthcare and education due to language barriers, limited employment opportunities leading to financial hardships, and psychosocial support needs.



20 June, discussion with a group of refugees from Ukraine at Inimă de Copil's community centre in Galați.

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)