

ROMANIA

Weekly Update #71

6 November 2023

Key figures

146,507 refugees granted temporary protection in Romania.

84,307 refugees present in Romania (as of 29 October 2023).

55,932 refugees supported with cash assistance in 2023. 43,129 refugees supported in 2022.

80,519 refugees provided with protection counselling services and legal support in 2023. 65,000 refugees assisted in 2022.

5,630 refugees supported with livelihoods and employment services in 2023.

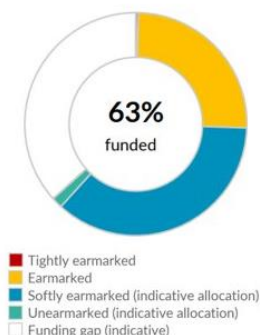
“From the very beginning, I liked Romania - for the friendly people, the culture, and the empathy for the grief that Ukrainians are experiencing now. Thanks to the many people welcoming my daughter and myself, we have a place to live, and we made new friends.”
 Anna, a refugee from Ukraine hosted in Romania.

Funding Situation

As of 31 October 2023

\$59.5 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2023



Highlights

On 1 November, the United Nations (UN) agencies in Romania marked UN Day with an event hosted by the Government of Romania at Victoria Palace in Bucharest. The Prime Minister, Mr. Marcel Ciolacu, and some 250 representatives of national and local authorities, the diplomatic community, NGOs, and partners were present. In his opening address, Prime Minister Ciolacu said “*The UN Refugee Agency has played a vital role in supporting refugees and asylum seekers in Romania. Their tireless commitment to protect, assist those forced to leave their homes is a clear testament to the principles of humanity and compassion promoted by the UN.*” During the evening a [joint press release](#) was issued and the event was [streamed](#) on-line.



On 1 November, Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu hosted UN Agencies and guests for the marking of UN Day at Victoria Palace.

Response

On 30 October, UNHCR and its 13 direct partners met to discuss the operational plan for 2024. Pending further consultations, which so far have also involved refugees through focus group discussions and the Multi Sector Needs Assessment, in 2024 UNHCR and its partners in Romania should be continuing comprehensive protection activities, expanding socio-economic inclusion services, and maintaining a cash assistance programme for the most vulnerable. UNHCR will continue its field presence while assessing needs in the respective areas of coverage and monitoring arrivals at borders.

So far in 2023, some 5,630 refugees have received employment assistance from UNHCR and its partners. This week, UNHCR and its partners supported refugees at four job fairs held in Bucharest, Braşov and Galaţi providing information, translation services, counselling, introductions to employers, and CV-building assistance to the refugee jobseekers attending the fairs. Partners Ateliere Fără Frontiere and Jobs4Ukraine also ran separate CV-building workshops.

During the week, UNHCR together with partners distributed 1,600 core-relief items (CRIs), including bedding, clothing, hygiene kits, and thermoses to some 400 vulnerable refugees in seven counties. In addition, UNHCR conducted focus group discussions in Bistriţa, Brăila and Buzău, to listen to refugees' challenges and needs to inform upcoming CRI distribution requirements as winter approaches and to address protection concerns.

On a weekly basis, thousands of refugees from Ukraine are visiting the refugee hub at RomExpo in Bucharest for different protection services. UNHCR, together with 16 partners are supporting them with cash assistance, documentation, livelihood, and healthcare services among other. At the same time, UNHCR supports the donations centre of the Municipality of Bucharest in RomExpo, through which also UNHCR distributes core-relief items. On 3 November, Ms. María Soledad Cisternas Reyes, former Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility, visited RomExpo and met refugees from Ukraine with disabilities, hearing about their experiences in Romania. On 6 November, UNHCR and partners hosted a visit from the US Embassy, which visited the centre and had the opportunity to interact with refugee families. During both visits, UNHCR highlighted the importance of key protection services such as counselling, mental health and psychosocial support, and gender-based violence while providing humanitarian aid through the cash for protection programme to vulnerable refugees from Ukraine.

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 \(unhcr.org\)](#)