

ROMANIA

Weekly Update #78

26 December 2023

Key figures

153,954 refugees granted temporary protection in Romania.

83,765 refugees present in Romania.

62,486 refugees supported with cash assistance programmes in 2023. 43,129 refugees supported in 2022.

89,797 refugees provided with protection counselling services and legal support in 2023. 65,000 refugees assisted in 2022.

6,672 refugees supported with livelihoods and employment services in 2023.

“ We came to Romania in our car with a dog, found housing and went to work. It was the most difficult and poorly paid work, but we were happy to be alive and unharmed. It's hard for us in Romania, but we accept the rules of the host country.”

Viktoria, a 36-year-old refugee from Dnipro, Ukraine, hosted in Romania.

Highlights

The UNHCR Field Presence in Iași will discontinue its operation in 2024, while UNHCR will open a field presence in Constanta -part of its Galați Field Office- to support authorities addressing the needs of the refugees from Ukraine. This development had been discussed by the UNHCR Representative with both the Prefect and Mayor of Iasi. Through its Suceava and Galați field offices, UNHCR will continue to operate in the former area covered by Iasi field presence and, through its partners operating in Iasi, continue to provide the same assistance and protection services to the Ukrainian refugees living in this part of Romania.

Response

UNHCR, FONSS and World Vision invited Ukrainian children at the Nicolina Centre in Iași for a Winter Holiday event where 100 refugee children also received gifts consisting in toys, fruits, and some sweets.

UNHCR participated in a meeting convened by the Inter-ministerial Committee to discuss the shaping of the first draft of the Romanian National Strategy against Trafficking in Persons for 2024-2028. UN Agencies and the local diplomatic representatives from several embassies attended the meeting that focused on shaping a draft paper and outlining both strategic and specific objectives to combat human trafficking. This collaborative effort underscores the engagement of UNHCR to address and mitigate the impact of trafficking in persons, a criminal practice that also exploits vulnerable collectives such as refugees.

UNHCR attended the Annual Human Rights Conference organized by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights (IRDO). At the event, over 50 participants from governmental authorities, academia, and civil society shared their feedback, specifically on issues related to minority rights, rights for persons with disabilities, education, equal opportunities, as well as the rights of refugees. UNHCR delivered a presentation on the best practices from the Romanian response to the Ukraine crisis.

UNHCR took part in the final meeting of the PROMISE Project, also known as "A New Voice for Migrants in Romania - Migrants Consultative Forum." For the project, an online survey was distributed in multiple languages through NGOs and social media, targeting all categories of international protection beneficiaries and focusing on challenges related to health, education, and the labour market. Major findings highlighted by the participating refugees revealed difficulties in accessing health services, finding employment, securing accommodation, enrolling in school, and facing discrimination and language barriers.

On 11 December, UNHCR participated in the opening of the exhibition called "People, Identities, Interactions" The photos and illustrations created by young refugees from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Iran, under the guidance of graphic artists, recalled both mundane scenes from Romania as well as folklore, mythology and history from their places of origin. The young refugees learned how to create art and to express themselves through art classes provided via the Refugee Artstart project by ActivRandom and CNRR, supported by UNHCR.

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 \(unhcr.org\)](#)



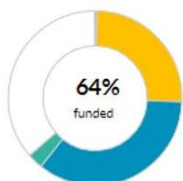
17 December 2023, Gift Bag distribution during a Holiday Party at the Nicolina Centre in Iasi.

Funding Situation

As of 15 December 2023

\$59.5 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2023



■ Tightly earmarked
 ■ Earmarked
 ■ Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
 ■ Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
 □ Funding gap (indicative)