

ROMANIA

Weekly Update #60

21 August 2023

Key figures

140,387 refugees granted temporary protection in Romania.

93,668 refugees present in Romania (as of 13 August 2023).

48,718 refugees supported with cash assistance in 2023. 43,129 refugees supported in 2022.

58,619 refugees provided with protection counselling services and legal support in 2023. 65,000 refugees assisted in 2022.

3,723 refugees supported with livelihoods and employment services in 2023.



Life was peaceful back home in Ukraine. But we took the decision to leave in a single day because of the bombings. Thank God for the hospitality we received in Romania. We feel almost home here.

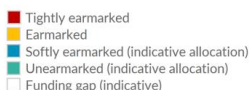
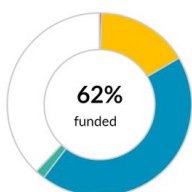
- Michael, a 76-year-old refugee from Odesa, Ukraine hosted in Romania.

Funding Situation

As of 15 August 2023

\$59.5 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2023



Highlights

UNHCR welcomes the decision of the Romania's Resettlement Committee, composed of the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the General Inspectorate of Immigration, to resettle 200 refugees to Romania in 2024. This decision, that took place on 17 August, complements the refugee protection ensured through the asylum system, the temporary protection extended to the refugees from Ukraine, as well as the services provided to refugees at the Emergency Transit Centre in Timisoara.

Last week, UNHCR concluded its awareness campaign to sustain refugee inclusion and social cohesion in Romania. The awareness campaign was launched on 3 July and aimed at reminding 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. Over the past six weeks, UNHCR published a variety of refugee stories, messages, and videos through different channels, including social media, billboards in major cities, TV, newspapers, and radio. During the campaign, messages were also addressing different [myths and facts](#) concerning refugees in Romania. An evaluation of the overall outreach and results of the awareness campaign is ongoing and will be shared with relevant stakeholders.

Response

On 14 August, over 3,500 vulnerable refugees from Ukraine have been informed of their inclusion in the cash for protection programme of UNHCR. Within the scope of the programme, most vulnerable refugees will be provided with four monthly instalments of RON 630 (approximately US\$ 140) per refugee per month to help them meet their most pressing needs (food, medicines, hygiene, etc.). Refugee families will start receiving the first instalment by the end of August. This is the more relevant as the governmental programme in place since May, is not yet fully in place (UNHCR provided a one-month cash assistance to 30,557 refugees to bridge the expected gap in June 2023). The assessment for inclusion of newly arriving refugees will continue in all five enrolment centres in Bucharest, Braşov, Galaţi, Suceava and Iaşi, as well as mobile enrolment teams in other areas including Constanţa, Sibiu, and Cluj.

UNHCR continues supporting refugees prepare for employment opportunities in Romania. On 10 August, UNHCR Partner Ateliere Fara Frontiere (AFF) organised a workshop on "the rights and obligations at the workplace", with 26 refugees from Ukraine. From 7 to 11 August, partner HEKS EPER organised a five-day intensive vocational manicure course for refugees from Ukraine in Cluj. HEKS EPER also provide support and grants to refugee job seekers interested in opening their own business. Last week, a grant was given to a refugee starting-up her own hair salon. So far in 2023, more than 3,700 refugees have received employment related services from UNHCR and partners.



Workshop on "the rights and obligations at the workplace" organized by AFF on 10 August.

UNHCR continues supporting refugees from Ukraine address their basic needs. Last week, UNHCR delivered core-relief items (CRIs) including hygiene kits and bedding to 1,544 refugees in Suceava, Constanţa and Galaţi. UNHCR also conducted a needs assessment with some 165 refugee families in Tulcea with the help of a refugee community volunteer. UNHCR will follow up the needs assessment with a CRI distribution. So far in 2023, UNHCR distributed 136,720 CRIs to 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)