

# ROMANIA

**Weekly Update #62**
**4 September 2023**

## Key figures

**141,513 refugees** granted temporary protection in Romania.

**92,262 refugees present** in Romania (as of 27 August 2023).

**49,183 refugees** supported with cash assistance in 2023. 43,129 refugees supported in 2022.

**62,956 refugees** provided with protection counselling services and legal support in 2023. 65,000 refugees assisted in 2022.

**3,867 refugees** supported with livelihoods and employment services in 2023.



*I am studying Romanian language first of all to say, "Thank you" and then to say, "help me find a job".*

- Victoria, a refugee woman from Ukraine attending Romanian language class.

## Highlights

On 28 August, the Chilean Foreign Minister Mr. Alberto van Klaveren Stork visited UNHCR's integrated service hub in RomExpo, Bucharest. UNHCR Representative Mr. Pablo Zapata, State Counsellor Ms. Victoria Stoiciu, and Head of the Department for Emergency Situations Dr. Raed Arafat accompanied the delegation. During the visit, the Minister learned from the partners present at RomExpo about the various services offered to refugees from Ukraine, including documentation, cash assistance, healthcare, and other protection services. In addition, the Chilean Minister had a private meeting with refugees from Ukraine in order to understand their experience in Romania and hear more about their stories.



Chilean Foreign Minister at UNHCR's integrated service hub in RomExpo, Bucharest.

## Response

UNHCR is assisting more than 3,000 vulnerable refugees from Ukraine with cash assistance under its Cash for Protection programme. This week, UNHCR disbursed the first instalment of RON 630 (approximately US\$ 140) per person to the most vulnerable refugees from Ukraine. As of 28 August, 3,930 vulnerable refugees - including people with disability or severe medical conditions, and elderly people - have been prioritized for this financial assistance that will be disbursed in four monthly instalments. UNHCR is continuing enrolment of vulnerable refugees through five enrolment centres in Bucharest, Brasov, Galati, Suceava and Iasi, as well as mobile enrolment teams in Constanta, Cluj and other major cities hosting refugees from Ukraine. This financial assistance is also relevant in the context of the delayed payments under the new governmental programme.

So far in 2023, UNHCR and partners have supported 62,956 refugees from Ukraine with protection counselling and services in persons and through dedicated hotlines. Main questions received from refugees are related to cash assistance, documentation to access the government assistance programme, education, livelihoods and temporary protection. In addition, UNHCR is proactively disseminating information through a dedicated Telegram channel directly reaching 10,930 refugees, while the most relevant communications from UNHCR are then forwarded/transmitted in other Telegram channels reaching over 60,000-70,000 refugees.

UNHCR is supporting awareness sessions on access to education and social activities for refugee children from Ukraine. On 23 August, UNHCR conducted a session with 13 leaders from both refugee community and host community in Galati. During the session, UNHCR presented available educational activities, such as languages learning courses. Representatives from municipal sports club and the county library were also present and informed about their ongoing activities with refugees, including art and craft workshops, reading groups, and sports together with children from the host community.

The awareness campaign titled "Born in Ukraine. Finding hope in Romania" conducted by UNHCR in July/August reached an audience of over 2.5 million unique people (12 per cent of Romania's population). The campaign messages were disseminated through social media, billboards in major cities, television, newspapers, and music platform. The campaign aimed at cultivating the sense of social cohesion among refugees and host communities, and received overwhelming positive feedback from social media users. An assessment of the campaign is being undertaken and will be disseminated.

*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)*

## Funding Situation

As of 15 August 2023

**\$59.5 million**

UNHCR's financial requirements 2023

