ROMANIA

Weekly Update #70 **30 October 2023**

Key figures

145,953 refugees granted temporary protection in Romania.

85,276 refugees present in Romania (as of 22 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.

"I came to Romania with my husband and two children to escape the war. My children are enrolled in Romanian school, and I am taking language classes at Inimă de Copil in Galați. Now I am looking for a job while trying to remain hopeful."

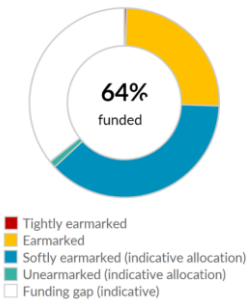
Nataliia, a 34-year-old refugee from Reni, Ukraine.

Funding Situation

As of 4 October 2023

$59.5 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2023



Highlights

United Nations Day on 24 October marked the 78th anniversary of the ratification of the UN Charter and the establishment of the United Nations. In a press release issued by UN Agencies in Romania on the day, UNHCR Representative, Mr. Pablo Zapata, said *"On United Nations Day, we reflect on the principles that bind us as a global community and renew our commitment to uphold human rights, dignity, and peace. On this day, we reaffirm our commitment to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol, which set out the responsibilities and rights of nations and refugees in relation to the universal right to seek asylum and protection."*

Response

On 24 October, UNHCR supported a roundtable in Bucharest on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse risks faced by LGBTIQ+ refugees in Romania and safeguarding at the workplace organised by the Romania PSEA Network and the Refugee Resource and Support Hub. Some 50 participants from civil society attended the event with discussions covering the risks of discrimination, harassment, and violence faced by LGBTIQ+ persons.

On 26 October, UNHCR together with Fundația Sensiblu and Cluj Metropolitan Area (CMA) held an advocacy event in Cluj-Napoca on "Resilience, Adaptation, and Integration - Solidarity with Ukraine Refugees". CMA is a well-established local NGO with over 20 years of experience in gender-based violence prevention and response. The event was well attended by some 40 representatives of local authorities and civil society, during which they heard refugees explain the challenges and difficulties that they faced since arriving in Romania.

On 26 October, UNHCR and partner Fundația Sensiblu together with the support of the NGO Cluj Metropolitan Area held an advocacy event on "Resilience, Adaptation, and Integration - Solidarity with Ukraine Refugees".

So far in 2023, UNHCR conducted capacity building on core protection principles reaching over 1,200 individuals. During the week, UNHCR together with Romanian National Council for Refugees held a seminar on the legislative and practical aspects applicable to the border international protection and border control. The event brought together 43 representatives of the General Inspectorate of the Border Police (IGPF) from all regions of Romania, and representatives of the General Inspectorate for Immigration.

In October, UNHCR verified and assessed the vulnerability of some 2,848 refugees living in Baia Mare, Brașov, Bucharest, Constanța, Galați, Iași, Suceava, and Timișoara for its cash for protection programme. Since July, over 6,400 refugees with high levels of vulnerability received cash instalments. So far this year, UNHCR supported more than 55,900 refugees with cash assistance.

In preparation of the upcoming winter, UNHCR distributed more than 800 core-relief items (CRIs), including bedding, hygiene kits, and thermoses to some 223 vulnerable refugees in Galați, Suceava, and Timiș counties. UNHCR together with World Vision completed a needs assessment with refugees in Constanța in preparation for upcoming CRI distributions there.

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)