ROMANIA

Weekly Update #88 **18 March 2024**

Key figures

155,301 refugees obtained temporary protection in Romania.

77,580 refugees present in Romania.

3,009 refugees enrolled in the winter cash assistance programme in 2024.

Over 100,000 refugees provided with protection counselling services and legal support since January 2023.

7,588 refugees supported with livelihood and employment services since January 2023.

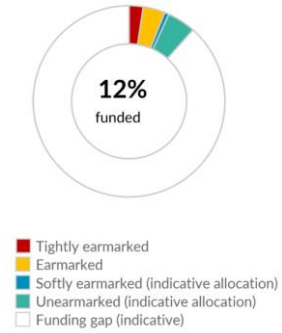
We fled from the occupied Nova Kakhovka in Kherson region with my 9 years-old son and 76 years-old grandmother. We are very grateful to every country that accepted and helped Ukrainians in these difficult times.
– Maria (31), a refugee from Ukraine, hosted in Romania.

Funding Situation

As of 29 February 2024

$54.3 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2023



Highlight

On 14 March, Ms. Kathleen Kavalec, the US Ambassador to Romania, visited UNHCR's activities in Suceava (northern Romania). During the visit, Ambassador Kavalec met with female refugee leaders from Ukraine and learned about the activities implemented by UNHCR, including cash-based initiatives, distribution of core relief items, and community engagement. The Ambassador also met with UNHCR partner Sensiblu in Suceava and discussed their response and experience of supporting Ukrainian Refugees. On the same day, a delegation from the US Embassy visited the American Corner of the Emergency Transit Centre (ETC) in Timisoara. During the visit, the delegation observed different services provided by UNHCR and partners AIDRom to the refugees accommodated at the ETC. Currently the ETC is hosting 172 refugees from different countries of origin, awaiting their resettlement to third countries.

Visit by the US Ambassador Ms. Kathleen Kavalec to UNHCR's field office in Suceava on 14 March 2024.

Coordination and response

On 15 March, the Inter-Agency Coordination Team, led by UNHCR, organized the kick-off event of the Communications Task Force for the refugee response in Romania. More than 40 participants from authorities, embassies, and partners implementing the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) attended the event. Three researchers, Mr. Remus Stefureac, Ms. Oana Popescu Zamfir, Mr. Mircea Toma, presented their insights on the public narratives around the Ukraine refugee situation. The Communications Task Force - within the RRP coordination structure - aims at analyzing the public discourse related to refugees from Ukraine and work collectively towards promoting social cohesion.

On 14 March, at the invitation of students from the Faculty of History, University of Bucharest, UNHCR conducted an information session on the Ukraine refugee situation, and the response carried out by authorities, and humanitarian partners in Romania. UNHCR also addressed some of the misinformation about refugees that prevail in online and offline spaces. The session led to an insightful and entertaining dialogue. The solidarity expressed by the students towards refugees has been inspiring.

Some participants of the session conducted by UNHCR at the University of Bucharest.

On 7 March, UNHCR organized a workshop in Constanta on livelihoods and economic inclusion of refugees. The workshop aimed at bridging gaps and fostering collaboration to increase refugees' self-reliance. Over 40 participants, including representatives from the Prefecture, the local Employment Agency (AJOFM), the HORECA Employers' Union along with other NGOs and refugees attended the workshop. Since the beginning of the year, UNHCR and partners provided counselling on livelihood opportunities to nearly 750 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 and 2024 programmes. For more details: Romania Funding Update - 2024 | Global Focus (unhcr.org)