UKRAINE EMERGENCY – UNHCR ROMANIA CASH ASSISTANCE FACTSHEET

14 June 2022

KEY FIGURES

Some **6,800** refugees from Ukraine enrolled for cash assistance in Romania

92% of the refugees enrolled are women and children

US$962,000 est. disbursed so far to assist refugees from Ukraine in Romania

4 enrollment centres in Brasov and Bucharest, and recently in Galati and Iasi

Cash has been transferred to over **6,000** people
(first and second payments)

On 12 May, refugees from Ukraine enrolled to receive cash assistance from UNHCR at the cash enrolment centre in Palace of the Patriarchate, Bucharest, Romania. © UNHCR/Zikrea Saleah

Why cash?

Multipurpose cash assistance is one of the most efficient and effective ways to support people forced to flee, especially in fast-changing emergencies. It serves as a transitional safety net pending the individual's ability to find a job or be included in national social protection schemes. Using secure financial technology combined with strict data protection measures, UNHCR provides refugees with cash securely and quickly. Families can purchase goods and services from local businesses which boosts the economy. Most importantly, cash assistance respects the dignity of choice and independence of people forced to flee, and gives them a sense of normality and ownership, allowing them to decide what they need most to support their family.

What support do refugees get?

Eligible refugees who enrol for cash assistnace receive RON 568 (approx. USD 120) per month for three months, equal to the amount received by refugees in Romania, pending their economic inclusion. UNHCR intends to provide transitional cash to support basic needs of refugees fleeing war.

What is the link between cash assistance and protection?

UNHCR's cash assistance programme in Romania is an opportunity to reach refugees, particularly those with specific needs, and offer them additional support and protection services, like counselling, psychosocial first aid and referral to other national services.

"UNHCR cash assistance aims to support refugees, increasing their self-sufficiency and independence, and reducing risks of abuse. It allows them to meet their needs with dignity and based on their preferences. UNHCR cash assistance programme intends to complement the Government's approach, targeting refugees intending to remain in the country, and will transition into national system for the inclusion of refugees in the social safety nets, pending their economic inclusion."

PABLO ZAPATA
UNHCR Representative in Romania

The General Inspectorate of Immigration has a permanent presence at the UNHCR RomExpo cash assistance enrolment centre for issuance of temporary protection status to refugees, supported by the European Untion Asylum Agency, creating synergy between national protection assistance and UNHCR's multipurpose cash assistnace.

REFUGEES WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS

260 refugees with specific needs enrolled for cash assistance, including over **160** people with serious medical condition and **70** people with disabilities.

Whom do we help?

On 4 April, UNHCR launched its pilot cash assistance programme for Ukrainian or third-country nationals displaced from Ukraine because of the conflict, who have stayed in Romania for at least seven days and are in the following situation:

- A family with one or more persons with a disability and/or serious medical condition.
- Single parent with no other adult member (between 18 to 60-year-old).
- A family headed by a person above 60-year-old with no other adult member (between 18 to 60-year-old).
- A family with one or more children (under the age of 18) including child(ren) (under the age of 18) separated from their parents or legal caregiver.
- A family with a pregnant woman.
- Single women who are alone.

How does it work?

1. Refugees request an appointment via help.unhcr.org/Romania or dopomoha.ro.
2. They receive an appointment by SMS.
3. Refugees are invited to a UNHCR-run enrolment centre, where they are asked to provde their family composition, the current location of stay, etc., providing as well their identity documents.
4. UNHCR uses biometrics to ensure there is no duplication of assistance within and outside the country, particularly as its programme is rolled out at regional level.
5. If refugees have specific needs (for instance, older people or separated children) or otherwise are in need of support, they are referred for further counselling to a psychosocial counselor, safe spaces, and other services.
6. After enrolling with UNHCR, refugees receive an SMS containing a pick-up code notifying them that cash assistance is ready.
7. Refugees go to any of the Smith & Smith locations and show their identity documents and the unique pick-up code.
8. Once confirmed, refugees will be able to withdraw cash benefits completely, and up to three months.

Who are our partners?

The programme is designed in coordination with the Government and complementary to its efforts to support refugees from Ukraine. NGO partners include AIDRom, which has supported the programme since its pilot phase, and human resource partner include Adecco. IKEA donated furniture for the RomExpo cash assistance enrolment centre.

What's next?

- UNHCR is piloting the use of bank transfer as the preferred delivery modality going forward.
- Additional cash enrolments centers are being established in Suceava and Constanta.

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