

ROMANIA

Weekly Update #20

4 November 2022

Key figures

88,489 refugees currently in Romania (as of 2 November 2022)

81,852 refugees registered for temporary protection in Romania (as of 2 November 2022)

26,132 refugees supported with multi-purpose cash assistance.

50,451 refugees provided with information and counselling in person or over the phone

13,368 refugees supported to travel to Romania from Ukraine-Moldova border through fast-track transfers.



After fleeing home due to the war, my six years old daughter became severely depressed. Returning to the school simply brought her back to life again.

- **A refugee mother from Ukraine hosted in Bucharest.**

Highlights

UNHCR's Goodwill Ambassador (GWA) and Spanish TV presenter Mr. Jesús Vázquez is visiting Romania. During his mission, he met with refugee families from Ukraine in Bucarest, Galati and Isaccea border crossing point. He congratulated the refugee response by Romania in meetings with State Secretary Dr. Arafat and State Counsellor Ms. Turza. During the visit to the UNHCR's integrated service hub at RomExpo and Uruguay school in Bucarest, Mr. Vázquez engaged with refugee families, children and teachers and learned about their current situation. In Galati, he visited UNHCR's cash enrolment centre and the Blue Dot jointly operated by UNHCR and UNICEF. At Isaccea, Mr. Vázquez interviewed several refugees arriving from Ukraine to Romania. During these interviews, Mr. Vázquez heard about the current situation in Ukraine and learned about the pressing needs of arriving refugees.



UNHCR's Goodwill Ambassador and Spanish TV presenter Mr. Jesús Vázquez with refugee children from Ukraine at Uruguay school, Bucharest.

Response

On 27 October, the first meeting of the Government Working Group on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and Anti-Trafficking took place in Bucharest. The Working Group was set up by a Prime Minister's decision and is chaired by State Counsellor, Ms. Turza. The meeting focused on the drafting of an action plan for the working group. UNHCR represented the Inter-Agency PSEA Network and advocated to include PSEA as an action point and to create a vetting system for all actors involved in the refugee response in order to establish and ensure safeguards for refugees.

A new Blue Dot operated by UNHCR, UNICEF and partner NGOs was opened in Galati on 31 October to support refugees from Ukraine that are living in and around Galati. UNHCR's partner CNRR is available on site to provide legal advice and counselling on integration services and opportunities, UNICEF's partner *Good Neighbours* will oversee the child-friendly space and WHO is supporting with the provision of mental health and psychosocial support, as well as referrals to family doctors through its partners.

Since the beginning of the emergency, more than 50,000 refugees from Ukraine were provided with information and counselling in person or over the phone. During this week, 1,699 refugees were counselled by CNRR, UNHCR's legal aid partner in Romania. Among them, 1,092 refugees received information at border crossing points (BCPs), while 374 refugees received information regarding their integration prospects in Romania: Suceava and Rădăuți, Constanța, Bucharest, Galați, Iași. Finally, 233 refugees from Ukraine were assisted via the CNRR's hotline.

UNHCR held meetings with ISU (Emergency Situations Department at county level) of Iasi and Vaslui counties to discuss ongoing preparedness for winter, relevant challenges, and constraints. The need for hygiene items, blankets and bed linen was highlighted for both counties for reception facilities at the border.

UNHCR met with two Ukrainian community leaders in Galati and discussed an initiative to commemorate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities in December.

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 2022 programmes. For more detail: <https://reporting.unhcr.org/romania-funding-2022>