

# ROMANIA

## Weekly Update #21

11 November 2022

### Key figures

**89,011 refugees** currently in Romania (as of 7 November 2022)

**83,428 refugees** registered for temporary protection in Romania (as of 7 November 2022)

**27,416 refugees** supported with multi-purpose cash assistance.

**52,300 refugees** provided with information and counselling in person or over the phone

**13,599 refugees** supported to travel to Romania from Ukraine-Moldova border through fast-track transfers.



*We spent all our lives in building a home and raising our children. We managed to avoid the attacks during the war in 2014. But time the attacks ripped the whole neighbourhood apart and forced us to leave the home we hold dear.*

- **Svetlana and Olev, refugee grandparents from Ukraine hosted in Galati.**

### Highlights

On 10 November, UNHCR, as lead of the Inter-Agency (IA) platform in Romania, attended a meeting that convened the government Working Groups (WGs) coordinating the implementation of the National Plan of measures for the protection and inclusion of refugees from Ukraine. The meeting chaired by State Counsellor Ms. Madalina Turza at the Prime Minister's Office was attended by authorities, NGOs, partners and IA sector leads. UNHCR and partners are working closely with authorities to ensure complementarity and synergy between the government WGs and the IA coordination structure of the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) in support to the National Plan of Measures.

On 10 November, Ms. Christa Schweng, President, Economic and Social Council of the European Union visited UNHCR's integrated service hub and the free super-store of the Municipality at RomExpo, Bucharest. During the visit, Mr. Pablo Zapata, UNHCR Representative, along with Ms. Cosmina Simiean, General Director, Social Services, Bucharest Municipality, briefed her about the refugee situation and the services provided by UNHCR and partners for inclusion prospects, notably in the labour market.

### Response

UNHCR's partner *Ateliere fara Frontiere (AFF)*, continues to facilitate cultural orientation and social inclusion of refugees from Ukraine. This week, AFF conducted community engagement activities that incorporate open discussions to address challenges of refugees and promote their inclusion. To date, AFF has held discussions with 329 individuals who have visited the employment services table at RomExpo in Bucharest. UNHCR has enrolled around 31,000 refugees for multipurpose cash assistance, including 1,656 people with serious medical condition, 1,553 single parents, 695 people with disability, and 439 people at risk. Nearly 28,000 individuals have received at least one out of total three instalments of the cash assistance. Vulnerable refugees will be receiving one additional instalment and cash support to cover winter expenses.

UNHCR continues to provide core-relief items (CRIs) to assist new arrivals, particularly during the winter. On 7 November, UNHCR handed over 200 blankets, 300 bed linen sets, 300 sleeping bags and 325 hygiene kits to the Inspectorate for Emergency Situation (ISU) in Vaslui county (near the border with Moldova).

### Partnerships

On a daily basis over 400 refugees from Ukraine, including vulnerable people with specific needs, are assisted at the UNHCR's integrated service hub at RomExpo in Bucharest. Over the last few weeks, UNHCR and partners noticed a steady increase of new arrivals. Partners continue to provide legal assistance, counselling on health, education and employment among other services. In addition, Motivation-Romania has supported people with disability at RomExpo since the beginning of the Ukraine refugee situation with medical assistive devices such as wheelchairs and crutches.

### Capacity Building

On 2 November, UNHCR co-facilitated a briefing in Timisoara organised by FRONTEX for 28 border police on international protection and access to the asylum procedure. The FRONTEX border police were familiarised with the asylum procedure at the Romanian border and the challenges in dealing with vulnerable applicants at the border.



Government Working Group meeting held on 10 November 2022.

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>