

ROMANIA

Weekly Update #22

18 November 2022

Key figures

89,825 refugees currently in Romania (as of 15 November 2022)

85,978 refugees registered for temporary protection in Romania (as of 15 November 2022)

29,783 refugees supported with multi-purpose cash assistance.

54,286 refugees provided with information and counselling in person or over the phone

13,750 refugees supported to travel to Romania from Ukraine-Moldova border through fast-track transfers.



Our sons and daughters, who used to take care of us, are in Ukraine. UNHCR's cash assistance helped us meet the urgent needs during the initial period. We try our best to share information on the available support with our friends and other Ukrainians.

- **Elderly refugee mothers hosted in Bucharest.**

Highlight

On 15-16 November, UNHCR Representative, Mr. Pablo Zapata participated in the Ministerial Conference of the Salzburg Forum in Bucharest, a regional mechanism for political consultations and multilateral cooperation. The focus of attention was the humanitarian situation stemming from the war in Ukraine, as well as preparedness. Mixed movements of refugees and migrants through the Western Balkans and Salzburg Forum countries was also discussed, along with regional cooperation. During the event, Mr. Zapata shared an overview of the Ukraine regional refugee situation and challenges ahead in protection and inclusion, and the need to keep adequate preparedness, referring *inter alia* to the situation in Romania. He highlighted the need to address gaps in harmonization of standards among member states and the practical/administrative barriers affecting refugees' access to rights under the Directive, referring to the Bucharest Process. In light of dissimilar practices, he further advocated that refugees from Ukraine should not have their legal status and access to rights in host countries prematurely withdrawn as a result of decisions to temporarily travel to Ukraine.

Coordination

On 11 November, the Inter-Agency Coordination Unit - together with UNHCR in Suceava and in partnership with the Prefecture of Maramures - facilitated a pilot Local Refugee Support Network event in Baia Mare, Maramures County. This was the second of six pilot events planned in November-December 2022 to be held in various cities of Romania hosting high numbers of refugees. The event brought together over 50 participants representing a wide range of NGOs and government agencies providing support to refugees in the county.

Response

On 11 November, UNHCR conducted a focus group discussion with refugees residing in the village of Nicoresti, Galați county (near the border with Moldova) to understand the needs and challenges faced by refugees. The group was largely composed by women and children and persons with specific needs.

UNHCR continues to monitor the border crossing points (BCPs) in the borders with Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova. In the immediate aftermath of recent attacks against energy infrastructure in Ukraine, the trend of arrivals remained unchanged comparing to previous weeks.

UNHCR is scaling up its community-based protection activities in and around Bucharest. This week, five refugee UN volunteers (UNVs) have started working with UNHCR. With this support, UNHCR will increase its outreach to and communication with refugees. In coming days, more refugee UNVs will support the four offices of UNHCR in Romania.

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>



UNHCR Representative Mr. Pablo Zapata and Senior Protection Officer Ms. Jorunn Brandvoll at the Salzburg Forum Ministerial Conference.



Focus group discussion in Nicoresti, Galați.