

ROMANIA

Weekly Update #35

24 February 2023

Key figures

117,028 refugees granted temporary protection in Romania (as of 19 February)

110,985 refugees in Romania (as of 19 February)

5,314 refugees supported with cash assistance in 2023.

8,767 refugees provided with information and counselling in person or over the phone in 2023

403 refugees supported with fast-track transfers from Moldova to Romania in 2023.



When hostilities escalated in Ukraine, Ekaterina and her young son fled to Romania. Moved by the public support they received, she is rebuilding her life and making new friendships.

Read the full story here:

[In Romania, Ukraine's refugees build new lives while longing for home.](#)

Highlights

On 24 February, the Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Nicolae Ciucă, delivered the keynote remarks in an event marking one year of the refugee response in Romania and visited the UNHCR's integrated service hub at RomExpo. He affirmed that Romania will continue to support refugees from Ukraine and facilitate the humanitarian access to all people in need and acknowledged the contribution of UNHCR and humanitarian actors in the response. In their remarks the Ambassadors of Sweden (EU Council Presidency), United States of America, Japan and Ukraine, who reaffirmed the support of their countries to refugees. A national NGO, the Bucharest Municipality and a refugee woman completed -along with the UNHCR Representative- the panel of speakers.



H.E. Mr. Nicolae Ciucă, Prime Minister of Romania, visiting RomExpo on 24 February 2023.

The event at RomExpo was organized by the Inter-Agency coordination platform, and also served to release the [Refugee Response Plan \(RRP\) 2023](#) which counts with 34 partners that are appealing for US\$ 153 million for their response in Romania. Over one hundred participants, including refugees, authorities, embassies, and RRP partners, reflected on the refugee response over the past twelve months and commended the solidarity demonstrated by all actors and civil society organisations in the counties.

On 22 February, H.E. Ms. Kathleen Kavalec US Ambassador to Romania visited RomExpo. Ambassador Kavalec was accompanied by the State Counsellor Ms. Madalina Turza, State Secretary and Head of the Department of Emergency Situations (DSU) Dr. Raed Arafat, and UNHCR Representative Mr. Pablo Zapata. During the visit, Ambassador Kavalec met with refugees, observed the services, and had a meeting with the UN Agencies.

Public engagement

On 23 February, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, issued a [press release](#) with the findings of third round of intention survey, titled "[Lives on Hold](#)" which provide insights into the experiences of displaced Ukrainians as well as their intentions for the future. The report outline that the vast majority of refugees and internally displaced Ukrainians – some 77 per cent and 79 per cent respectively – want to return home one day, however, only 12 per cent of both refugees and IDPs plan to do so in the next three months.

[Interviews on the one-year marking of refugee response](#) by the UNHCR Representative were featured in several media outlets, including Digi24 TV, Antena 1, Euronews, and Romanian Television TVR Plus, as well as with Spanish "Hoy por Hoy" of Cadena Ser and Diario16.

Response

On 21, 23 and 24 February, UNHCR facilitated three day-long training sessions on prevention of and response to gender-based violence (GBV) in Bucharest and Cluj. Around thirty participants from 19 NGOs and several officials DGASPC and national police attended the training. The training sessions focused on the basic concepts of GBV, how to handle case disclosures and make safe referrals to specialised actors.

On 15-16 February, UNHCR in Galați conducted multiple protection visits to five reception sites in Constanta, Mamaia and Navodari. UNHCR assessed needs of refugees particularly concerning core-relief items and is planning distributions of winter assistance items and hygiene kits in the coming weeks. In addition, UNHCR together with CNRR is planning to provide protection and legal counselling services to refugees.

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 programmes. For more details: [Romania Funding Update - 2023 | Global Focus \(unhcr.org\)](#)