

ROMANIA

Weekly Update #54

10 July 2023

Key figures

136,956 refugees granted temporary protection in Romania.

96,512 refugees present in Romania (as of 2 July 2023).

43,891 refugees supported with cash assistance in 2023. 43,129 refugees supported in 2022.

48,608 refugees provided with protection counselling services and legal support in 2023. 65,000 refugees assisted in 2022.

3,281 refugees supported with livelihoods & employment services in 2023.



People have to work if their health allows them... I never thought I would be a 'press man' as they say.

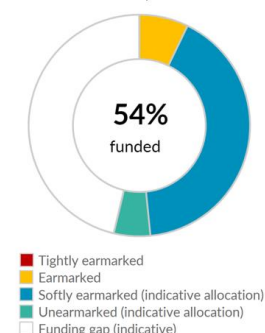
-Ivan (age 63), a refugee woman from Ukraine hosted in Romania.

Funding Situation

As of 27 June 2023

\$59.5 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2023



Highlights

On 3 July, UNHCR released an [awareness campaign](#) to sustain refugee inclusion and social cohesion in Romania. The campaign title “Born in Ukraine. Finding hope in Romania” is delivering messages of gratefulness from refugees from Ukraine who found home in Romania. During the [first week](#) UNHCR conducted an extensive outreach to media and the general public through different channels such as social media, billboards in major cities in Romania (Bucharest, Brasov, Constanta, Cluj, Timisoara) and the radio. The launching of the campaign was also widely reported in written and online media, as well as in television. It is expected that hundreds of thousands of Romanians will hear the positive messages of the campaign which were developed in consultation with various stakeholders in Romania.



Visuals of the awareness campaign launched by UNHCR in Romania.

Response

Refugees are reporting to UNHCR about the hardship they faced as the payments of the [new governmental support programme have not been disbursed yet](#). UNHCR is engaged with relevant authorities on this matter, as it becomes increasingly pressing, notably as the one-off cash assistance provided by UNHCR and other humanitarian actors to bridge the gap with the previous “50/20 program” is not sufficient for a longer period.

UNHCR is supporting the most vulnerable refugees with a new cash for protection programme that focuses on persons with increased vulnerability criteria, who currently do not have access to the social protection system. Since 3 July, UNHCR identified and enrolled 1,119 refugees (279 families) for the new cash assistance that is based on a vulnerability scorecard validated with other humanitarian actors. During the pilot phase of the programme, 400 vulnerable cases/families will be supported with cash assistance in four monthly instalments of 630 RON per refugee per month to help them meet the most pressing needs (food, medicines, hygiene etc). UNHCR has supported 43,891 refugees from Ukraine with cash assistance since the beginning of 2023.

UNHCR and partners continue helping refugees from Romania to find employment in Romania. So far in 2023, more than 427 have been enrolled in language courses and 70 refugees have received various vocational trainings on hotel maintenance, cooking and catering for restaurants, and skills required for beauty/nail salons. In 2023, nearly 3,300 refugees received employment related assistance from UNHCR and partners.

UNHCR completed its needs assessment for some 4,000 refugees from Ukraine residing in Constanța in preparation for an upcoming distribution of core-relief items (CRIs). UNHCR is working closely with partner organisations and local authorities to ensure timely and appropriate support to the refugee population in Constanța and will start the distribution of CRIs such as hygiene items, clothes, etc in the coming weeks.

On 1 and 8 July, UNHCR together with Sensiblu Foundation conducted two training sessions on self-defence in Cluj and Suceava respectively, within the framework of the countrywide UNHCR project “Provision of specialized support and services for gender-based violence (GBV) survivors”. The training was attended by nearly 50 refugee women and girls. The project aims at raising awareness on prevention of GBV and create a community network among the refugees from Ukraine.

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)