

ROMANIA

Weekly Update #61

28 August 2023

Key figures

140,931 refugees granted temporary protection in Romania.

94,257 refugees present in Romania (as of 20 August 2023).

48,718 refugees supported with cash assistance in 2023. 43,129 refugees supported in 2022.

61,249 refugees provided with protection counselling services and legal support in 2023. 65,000 refugees assisted in 2022.

3,784 refugees supported with livelihoods and employment services in 2023.



I took the decision to leave Ukraine on the first day of the war, as I was pregnant at that time. I gave birth to my daughter here in Romania. Initially I felt confused about where to register the birth and get documentations. But, thanks to the openness of Romanian people, our life is stabilized again.

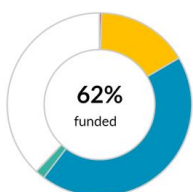
-Marina, a 32-year-old refugee from Ukraine hosted in Romania.

Funding Situation

As of 15 August 2023

\$59.5 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2023



Highlights

UNHCR in Romania is saddened by the explosions on 26 August in Bucharest resulting in loss of lives, injuries and loss of properties. UNHCR stands together with the Department for Emergency Situations (DSU) during this difficult time, wishing a fast recovery for those injured. DSU and the firefighters have been a cornerstone of the Romanian response to the Ukraine refugee situation supporting refugees since the very first day they sought protection in Romania.

On 23 August, UNHCR Representative and a senior team met with State Counsellor Ms. Victoria Stoiciu and State Counsellor for External Politics and Strategic Affairs Mr. Nicolae Comanescu. During the meeting Mr. Zapata and UNHCR team briefed the Counsellors on UNHCR's operation in support of the Government's refugee response, notably on protection and inclusion of refugees from Ukraine. They also exchanged views on addressing the current challenges through the collaborative approach that characterises the refugee response in Romania.

On 25 August, a delegation of the US Embassy in Bucharest including the new Deputy Chief of Mission, Mr. Michael Dickerson, visited UNHCR's integrated service hub at RomExpo, Bucharest. UNHCR Representative Mr. Pablo Zapata, accompanied the US delegation and briefed on the status of the refugee response. During the visit, the delegation exchanged views with the partners present at RomExpo and learned about the various services (such as documentation, cash assistance, healthcare, protection and child friendly/mother and child spaces) offered to refugees from Ukraine.

On 18 August, UNHCR Romania welcomed a visit to RomExpo by a delegation from the General Inspectorate for Migration of the Republic of Moldova accompanied by the General Inspectorate of Immigration (GII) Romania. The visit aimed at enhancing understanding on Romania's registration system for temporary protection (TP) developed at the RomExpo hub by the Romanian GII together with the European Union Asylum Agency and with the support of UNHCR. Since the onset of the crisis, 140,931 refugees from Ukraine received TP in Romania, including some 46,932 TPs issued at RomExpo.

Response

UNHCR and partners are expanding the geographical reach of Romanian language courses. On 17 August, UNHCR together with Ateliere Fara Frontiere (AFF) started a nine-day intensive language course for 26 job seeker refugees from Ukraine residing in Băile Olănești (central Romania). During this course, AFF is also sharing information on available career opportunities and job-search techniques. So far in 2023, UNHCR and partners supported 465 refugees with Romanian language courses in order to facilitate their inclusion in the job market and society at large.



Participants of the intensive language course for job seeker refugees from Ukraine residing in

Regarding the expansion of its geographical reach, UNHCR continues meeting refugees to assess their needs and inform them about available services in Romania. During the week, UNHCR met with some 40 refugees from Ukraine in Bistrița, Târgu Mureș and Galati to assess their needs and establish possible protection interventions in 2023 and beyond. UNHCR also conducted information sessions on grants for refugee-led organizations, as well as community networking activities for children. All activities have the objective to strengthen social cohesion and coexistence with the host community.

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)