ROMANIA

Weekly Update #65 25 September 2023

Key figures
143,139 refugees granted temporary protection in Romania.
85,141 refugees present in Romania (as of 17 September 2023).
52,273 refugees supported with cash assistance in 2023.
6,526 refugees provided with protection counselling services and legal support in 2023.
65,000 refugees assisted in 2022.
4,071 refugees supported with livelihoods and employment services in 2022.

Highlight
On 22 September, the Japanese musician, actor and philanthropist, UNHCR’s Goodwill Ambassador MIYAVI visited UNHCR’s integrated service hub at RomExpo, Bucharest. During the visit, MIYAVI, together with the Japanese Ambassador H.E. Mr. Hiroshi Ueda, and UNHCR Representative Mr. Pablo Zapata, engaged with refugees from Ukraine, Romanian authorities and partners and humanitarian actors present. MIYAVI also offered an acoustic performance for the refugees present and exchanged views about the visit with national media. MIYAVI has been engaging with UNHCR for nearly a decade and this is the first time he is visiting Romania and UNHCR activities in the country.

Response
UNHCR launched the 2023 Participatory Assessment (PA) for refugees from Ukraine through focus group discussions, which will take place in seven counties. The assessment aims at gaining better understanding on the protection risks and assistance needs among the refugees, identify community capacities and resources, and discuss solutions and priorities that can inform UNHCR’s programmes and interventions in 2024.

On 19 September, UNHCR published the result of a rapid assessment on the access of refugees from Ukraine to banking services in Romania. Opening a Romanian bank account is one of the main requirements to receive assistance through the government programme adopted in May 2023. The assessment shows that 85 per cent of the respondents have successfully opened a bank account. Over the past months, UNHCR and partners provided counselling to refugees from Ukraine in Romania to overcome the challenges affecting their economic inclusion.

UNHCR continues to support refugees with Romanian language classes. This week, UNHCR together with its partner CNRR published a Ukrainian-Romanian language learning manual developed by an expert of philology with experience in teaching Romanian language to Ukrainians. In addition, Romanian language classes continued reaching over 427 refugees this year.

On 19 September, UNHCR organized a gathering to acknowledge the contribution of six refugees from Ukraine and organisations that were part of the awareness campaign: “Born in Ukraine, Finding Hope in Romania”. The gathering created an opportunity to learn more about the situation of refugees in Romania and their views on the campaign.

On 21 September, staff of the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR) and UNHCR met in Fundata to enhance coordination and planning for the Ukraine refugee response in Romania. Working sessions focused on emergency response, child protection and reporting, as well as interactive sessions on advocacy, working with authorities, organizational values and self-care. CNRR, in partnership with UNHCR, provide refugees from Ukraine with a wide range of protection services, including legal counselling and psycho-social support since the beginning of the emergency.

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)