Key figures
143,604 refugees granted temporary protection in Romania.
84,771 refugees present in Romania (as of 17 September 2023).
51,202 refugees supported with cash assistance in 2023.
43,129 refugees supported in 2022.
70,004 refugees provided with protection counselling services and legal support in 2023.
4,182 refugees supported with livelihoods and employment services in 2023.

I never worked with refugees before. For the first few months, I found the experience emotionally overwhelming. The team at Seneca Anticafe became my support system, and this had an extremely strong impact on my life. -- Valentina, Manager of a Café in Bucharest that employed refugees from Ukraine.

Funding Situation
As of 18 September 2023
$59.5 million
UNHCR’s financial requirements 2023

64% funded

Highlights
On 26 September, UNHCR Representative Mr. Pablo Zapata met with the Romanian Minister of Justice, Mrs. Alina Stefania Gorgiu. During the meeting, UNHCR thanked Romanian authorities for their refugee response and highlighted the current needs of refugees from Ukraine in Romania, including challenges to access social protection schemes (i.e. due to lack of documentation of residential address), on which UNHCR presented the Minister with a document outlining alternatives to ensure such access.

On 26 September, at the Civil Society Gala in Bucharest, UNHCR, in partnership with The Institute, awarded the “Hope away from Home” prize to the Dopomoha Project developed by Code for Romania. The Gala, brought together over 700 members of civil society and authorities. Some 20 projects supporting refugees were submitted for the refugee response award. A jury composed of the UN agencies that lead sectors in the Refugee Response Plan reviewed these projects based on a set of criteria and awarded the project that excelled in all those. UNHCR Representative Mr. Pablo Zapata, as the Inter-Agency Refugee Coordinator, in his statements during the award ceremony praised the whole-of-society response in Romania as effective, efficient and deeply humane.

On 29 September, Ms. Katrin Göring-Eckardt, Vice President of the Bundestag visited the Emergency Transit Centre (ETC) in Timisoara. The General Inspector for Immigration, and UNHCR welcomed the delegation and presented various services provided by UNHCR and partner to the refugees accommodated there, including protection counselling, food and health services among others. On 28 September, the Ambassador of Norway to Romania, H.E. Ms. Siri Barry also visited the ETC in Timisoara and spoke with refugees hosted there. So far in 2023, some 109 refugees have been resettled to Norway from the ETC.

Population Movements
Following attacks targeting the Orlivka village in Ukraine, on 26 September, Romanian authorities temporarily closed the Isaccea border crossing with Ukraine. UNHCR and partners, in coordination with authorities, are monitoring the border crossings in the area and observed some 10-15 refugees arriving daily from Izmail, Kiliya, and Reni due to the persistent threat of drone attacks. However, there was no indication of a flow of refugees arriving to Romania. Currently there are around 85,000 refugees from Ukraine in Romania. Pendular movements continue, most of which are regular border transits.

Response
UNHCR continues to meet and enrol vulnerable refugees from Ukraine for its cash for protection programme. So far since July, over 6,400 refugees with high level of vulnerability were positively included in the programme. However, due to technical issues, payments of UNHCR’s cash programme have been delayed. Over the week, UNHCR informed refugees about the delay through dedicated messages and apologised for the unforeseen delay. UNHCR is aware that delays in payments are causing additional challenges among the refugee population and the office is committed in solving the problem and resume payments as soon as possible. So far this year, UNHCR supported more than 51,200 refugees with cash assistance.

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)