

Romania

February 2023

UNHCR **supports the government's response** to the needs of refugees from Ukraine through individual protection interventions, cash and core-relief items distribution, directly and through partners.

In February, UNHCR, partners and authorities released the **Refugee Response Plan (RRP) for 2023**. The RRP complements the National Plan of Measures adopted by the government.

UNHCR is leading the **inter-agency coordination** structure with RRP partners in Romania, ensuring alignment and synergy with the government plan and leadership.

UNHCR POPULATION STATISTICS AS OF MID-2022*

Refugees	88,137
Asylum-seekers	875
Stateless persons	297

Top three countries of origin*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Ukraine	83,326	Afghanistan	192
Syrian Arab Republic	2,357	Bangladesh	80
Iraq	497	India	67

*UNHCR 2022 Mid-Year Trends and UNHCR [data finder](#)

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of 15 February, **113,086** refugees from Ukraine were registered for temporary protection in Romania.

Coordination: UNHCR, in coordination with partners and UN agencies, is supporting the national response and preparedness, further to identifying relevant areas of cooperation, including emergency shelter solutions.

Multi-Sector Needs Assessment: Information from the December 2022 needs [assessment](#) indicates that most pressing needs are related to food security, accommodation and utilities, access to health care and access language opportunities.

Support to the most vulnerable: In 2023, UNHCR established partnerships with 13 national and international NGOs to enhance support in protecting children, preventing gender-based violence (GBV), providing information and legal services, facilitating cross-border transportations, strengthening self-reliance and communicating with refugee communities.

HIGHLIGHTS

Life-saving assistance

45,000 core-relief items, including blankets, winter clothes, cooking pots and hygiene items were distributed, and 8,000 refugees were enrolled for winter-specific cash assistance since January 2023.

Protection information and counselling

6,756 refugees were provided with information and counselling in person or over the phone since January 2023. Main queries were on cash assistance, legal status, temporary protection, access to accommodation, food, employment, education, and medical services.

Fast-track transfers

322 refugees traveled to Romania from Ukraine-Moldova border through fast-track transfers since January 2023.



2022 ANNUAL OVERVIEW UNHCR ROMANIA

The war in Ukraine triggered one of the fastest-growing displacement and humanitarian crises on record, pushing millions into displacement in search of safety. In 2022, UNHCR in Romania supported refugees from Ukraine with fast-track transfers, provided legal assistance and psychosocial counselling, winter clothes and core relief items to meet their basic needs, multi-purpose cash assistance, and livelihoods support. More details on the work of UNHCR in Romania in 2022 are in the [Annual overview report](#).

Key Priorities

- **Protection:** UNHCR engages with authorities and partners to promote refugee protection, including identification and timely referral of people with specific needs, legal counselling, as well as tailored interventions for LGBTIQ+ persons and people with disabilities. Protection trainings in support of the above are provided to authorities and partners.
- **Communication with communities:** Refugee UN Volunteers are enhancing two-way feedback mechanisms with refugee communities by operating UNHCR hotlines, protection counselling desks and complaint mechanisms. In 2023 so far, there were 12,500 consultations of the [UNHCR HELP webpage](#).
- **Increased field presence:** Since February 2022, UNHCR expanded its presence to Suceava and Galati with field offices, to Iasi with a field unit, and establishing two integrated service hubs and seven [Blue Dots](#) in locations hosting large numbers of refugees. UNHCR maintained its presence in Timisoara supporting the Emergency Transit Centre.
- **Winter-specific assistance:** Ahead of winter, UNHCR stepped up its support to refugees through distribution of specific core-relief items, such as blankets, quilts, winter clothes, sleeping bag, cooking pots and hygiene kits. Winter assistance was enhanced in 2023 to cover continued needs.
- **Cash assistance:** The cash programme, designed with authorities, complements government efforts to provide a transitional safety net to refugees from Ukraine until their inclusion in the labour market or in national social protection schemes.
- **Socio-economic inclusion:** With the National Employment Agency (ANOFM) and partner NGOs, UNHCR facilitates socio-economic inclusion and self-reliance through language courses, employment coaching, mobilizing employers, etc.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with the Ministry of External Affairs, the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, particularly the General Inspectorate of Immigration, General Inspectorate for Border Police, and the Department of Emergency Situations.
- **Integrated Service Hub for Refugees:** UNHCR hosts staff of some 15 partners and national authorities at the integrated service hub in Bucharest. The hub serves as main "one-stop shop" for services for refugees in Romania. UNHCR is also supporting the nearby Donations Centre run by the Municipality of Bucharest.
- **Inter-Agency and RRP:** UNHCR supports the government's response by coordinating 34 humanitarian actors through the inter-agency working group, seven sectoral working groups and 3 networks within the regional RRP.
- **External engagement:** UNHCR collaborates with civil society actors, media and academia to promote awareness on refugee rights, focusing on social cohesion and inclusion.

Statelessness

- Romania is a party to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, 1954 with some reservations and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. UNHCR is advocating with the relevant authorities to establish a formal statelessness status determination procedure.

UNHCR Presence in Romania

Staff:

49 National Staff
 40 International Staff
 11 Refugee UNVs

Offices:

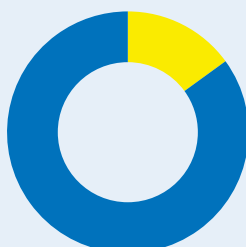
1 Branch Office in Bucharest
 2 Field Offices in Suceava and Galati
 2 Field Units in Timisoara and Iasi

Financial information (February 2023)

Financial requirements

USD 59.5 M

Funding gap
 85%
 50.45 M



Funded
 15%
 9.06M

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