

Empowerment of Refugee

Communities: UNHCR and its partners work to empower refugee communities through regular capacity-building activities conducted within Community Service Centres (CSCs) and elsewhere.

Inclusion in Decision-Making: UNHCR

strives to ensure that refugees are informed and able to influence decisions made at local and national levels that affect them.

Community Collaboration: UNHCR

supports projects aimed at improving social infrastructure and services in close collaboration with local and refugee communities and authorities.

Population figures

~122,600 refugees from Ukraine in Moldova:

58% female

44% children (52% boys, 48% girls)

18% older persons

10% of households had at least one family member with a disability

6% of refugees had disabilities

Highlights

Service Provision: Over 24,000 services were provided in the first six months of 2024 through ten CSCs across Moldova. Services included protection and legal consultations, child protection services, MHPSS, capacity building, cash assistance, recreational activities, and more. CSCs serve both refugees and local residents, with services tailored to the specific needs and priorities of the communities.

Regional Dialogue on Roma: A conference on Roma issues, co-organized by UNHCR, the Government of Moldova, and the Roma Task Force, brought together over 100 participants from Moldova, Romania, Ukraine, Slovakia, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Germany. The two-day event focused on identifying potential solutions and best practices for protecting and including Roma refugees and local Roma communities. The final report included best practices in child protection, education, GBV, social cohesion, legal protection, and livelihoods, and included a set of recommendations.

Hotline for People with Disabilities: UNHCR supported its partner Keystone Moldova in operating a hotline for refugees with disabilities. The hotline provided information to over 200 refugees about available services and supported referrals to other humanitarian actors. The hotline also offered internal referrals for psychological consultations, provided by Keystone psychologists either by phone or in person.

Key figures

- Seven (7) Community Support Initiatives were implemented by UNHCR partner CCR, fostering inclusion, social cohesion, and community participation. These initiatives benefited over 3,000 people directly and indirectly in Moldova.
- UNHCR has established and supports a network of 42 refugee community leaders. In the first half of 2024, seven (7) consultative, capacity-building, and networking meetings were conducted to strengthen these leaders and empower them to participate meaningfully in their communities.
- Support for Persons with Disabilities: Since the beginning of the refugee response, UNHCR and its partners have supported more than 1,800 persons with disabilities with cash assistance, MHPSS services, housing services, assistive devices, NFIs, and information sharing.
- Over 5,000 refugee and host community members participated in community cohesion events.
- 875 individuals benefited from livelihood and economic inclusion services provided by UNHCR partners, including individual counseling, information sessions, vocational training, and job matching.
- 289 refugees and asylum seekers participated in focus group discussions. UNHCR and its partners used their feedback to adapt programs to better meet the needs of forcibly displaced persons.



A local music band energizes the crowd at the opening ceremony of the Ungheni Community Centre, highlighting the Centre's role as a vibrant cultural hub where refugees and community members can come together to celebrate art, music, and shared traditions.

Operational Response

■ **Supporting Diverse Communities:** UNHCR and partners support LGBTIQ+ inclusion through tailored activities at Chisinau's Community Support Centre, reaching some 274 community members and allies in early 2024. Training for 15 partner staff on working with LGBTIQ+ displaced persons was provided.

■ **Enhancing Social Infrastructure:** UNHCR has identified and initiated several Peaceful Coexistence Projects (PCPs) aimed at improving social infrastructure and expanding existing services. One PCP in Chisinau supports and expands services for children with autism spectrum disorder, while another in Balti enhances the municipal sports school, which offers 15 team sports and serves local and refugee children and adults free of charge.

■ **Supporting Community Spaces:** UNHCR has finalized a multi-sports field in Cahul, aimed at improving outdoor activities for teenagers and adults in the city. In Comrat, UNHCR completed the insulation of a kindergarten by repairing the heating system and insulating the roofs to ensure thermal comfort.

Refugee Coordination Forum

■ **Roma Task Force** meetings were conducted in the first half of 2024, along with eight local-level advocacy interventions, to ensure non-discrimination and access to services for Roma refugees, particularly in light of closures of Refugee Accommodation Centers (RACs). Education and labor inclusion are among the advocacy focus areas as well.

■ **The Age & Disability Task Force** brings together 25 active members, many of which are Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs). Through the Task Force and direct engagement with OPDs, UNHCR supported capacity building for over 130 humanitarian and government staff on inclusive humanitarian action.

Working with Partners

■ UNHCR, in partnership with the **Jewish Community in Moldova** and HIAS, supports a mentorship program for refugee women. Ten female leaders were trained to mentor twenty refugee women, developing and implementing integration support plans, including in-kind protection assistance.

■ UNHCR also engages significantly with the **Agency for Interethnic Relations**, particularly in its efforts to ensure the protection and inclusion of Roma refugees, local Roma communities, and other ethnic minorities. The Agency played a co-leadership role in organizing the Regional Roma Conference and is an active member of the Roma Task Force.

■ UNHCR supported a refugee-led advocacy initiative with authorities to clarify the status of Ukrainian-registered vehicles. It also provided advocacy training to refugee leaders and facilitated their participation in the **San Remo Institute's Advocacy for Protection** course.



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Refugees and Moldovans, young artists of the “Urban Spirit Family” NGO, a global non-profit organization Artolution, along with UNHCR staff created the mural at the Community Service Centre in Donduseni as a symbol of solidarity and peace.

UNHCR is grateful for the support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to global UNHCR programmes.

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UNHCR Moldova is also thankful for the cooperation of Moldovan authorities at all levels, other UN agencies, the private sector and civil society organizations.

For more information, please visit the Operational Data Portal for Moldova or the Global Focus page for Moldova.

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