

# INCLUSION AND LIVELIHOODS

**ISSUE BRIEF #3**  
**11 MAY 2022**

## Promoting social cohesion through cultural activities: Refugees from Ukraine and inhabitants from Boscana cooked together and fostered new connections

About 86 refugees from Ukraine have been hosted in Boscana commune, Criuleni district until now. To know each other better and to promote social cohesion, women from Boscana recently organized a cultural activity with the participation of women refugees from Ukraine. They cooked together Ukrainian pies and the famous cookies (prăjiței) from Boscana, and discovered local traditions. This activity was organized by the Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova (CALM) and was supported by the UN Women and Sweden.

It was the first time that women refugees accommodated in the commune managed to meet and share information, concerns, and contacts. “This event offered me the opportunity to meet other women with amazing life stories and build new friendships,” said Tatiana, a refugee from Ukraine. Shortly after the war started, she came to her husband’s home commune together with their three children.

Svetlana, an inhabitant of Boscana, has been providing shelter to refugees for two months. “I have five children, and we own one more house in our commune. When the war started, I went to the mayor’s office to say that I would be ready to host refugees. At first, a grandmother, a mother, and a daughter came, and then they asked whether they could invite their relatives. I agreed, and the grandmother’s twin sister came with her daughter and granddaughter. Together, we celebrated Easter and prayed for peace”.

Boscana is a commune from Criuleni district with about 3500 inhabitants. It is located 20 km away from Chisinau, the capital of Moldova.

UN Women supports partners and civil society in offering immediate assistance to refugees from Ukraine, including through social and economic cohesion.

Discover the full story [here](#).



Photo credit: UN Women Moldova

The **Inclusion and Livelihoods Working Group** is one of several Working Groups of the country-level refugee coordination structure set up by the **Government of Moldova** and **UNHCR**, with participation of a wide array of public and private, central and local institutions and stakeholders in the context of the Ukraine refugee crisis. The Inclusion and Livelihoods Working Group is **chaired by the State Chancellery of the Republic of Moldova** and **UNDP**. The mandate of the WG is to enable a coordinated approach among partners working on livelihoods and inclusion topics, articulate and complement each other’s work and allow for **a coherent response in line with the mandate of each organization**. The work undertaken by the Inclusion and Livelihoods Working Group is a **prime example of the humanitarian – development nexus**: addressing crisis response needs, while considering longer-term resilience-building priorities that benefit refugees, returning migrants and host communities.

## Updates on inclusion and livelihoods interventions by our members

- [People in Need](#) supports 17 projects on refugee crisis response implemented by local CSOs. One project is focused to the vocational training for refugees in Straseni, and another four projects target protection, education, inclusion and well-being activities. A call for proposals on socio-economic inclusion with target locations from the North region of Moldova will be open soon.
- With support from the **European Union, UNDP** is currently implementing the “[Masters for Economic Growth Facility](#)”, with an allocation of 290,000 EURO dedicated to support the refugee crisis response and recovery. The interventions will support host communities in catering to the immediate needs of the refugees and support their socio-economic inclusion and strengthen municipalities’ crisis response and future readiness capacity, including through innovative capability development.
- With support from the **European Union, UNDP’s Confidence Building Measures Programme** supports the temporary integration of refugees in communities on both sides of the Nistru river. The total budget allocated is 130,000 EUR. Until now, activities and socializing games have been organized for 31 children and 8 adult refugees from Varnița village. Psychological counseling was offered to 9 refugees, and 11 refugees were assisted with registration and the provision of necessary assistance, activities for children, and medicine. Activities for refugees were also organized on the left bank, benefitting 45 children aged 3 to 14 years.
- Through the Migration and Local Development Project funded by the **Swiss Development Cooperation, UNDP supported 17 Hometown Associations** to provide equipment and goods required for the accommodation and catering of refugees, to provide access to vouchers and counseling, and to create socializing activities for children refugees. Until now, approximately 13,000 refugees from Ukraine have been hosted.

### Contact us

The Inclusion and Livelihoods Working Group meets every Wednesday from 1 to 2 PM Chișinău time on Zoom: <https://undp.zoom.us/j/83411777112>. Meeting ID: 834 1177 7112. For any questions you may have regarding the Working Group, please reach out to Ms. Ioana Creitaru at [ioana.creitaru@undp.org](mailto:ioana.creitaru@undp.org).

## Spread the word!

UNDP Moldova is launching the “[How is Life](#)” [online survey](#) aimed at collecting stories (‘micronarratives’) from local population, refugees and owners of the local businesses to analyze the effects of the current refugee influx on Moldovan society and to develop programmatic interventions.

[The survey](#) is anonymous and is available in Romanian, Ukrainian, Russian, and English (the language can be selected at the top right corner of the page). The survey can be filled in by refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine, volunteers, host families, civil servants, businesses that employ refugees, development partners.

The survey is part of a [UNDP Moldova](#) longitudinal study, and stories will be collected on a continuous basis in order to monitor and assess the impact of the crisis. The “micro-narrative” method is a method of distributed ethnography. It combines “hard” data, like age and gender, with personal experiences shared by the respondents and geolocation. It allows to extract more precise and detailed insights in real time compared to classic surveys.

The resulting data will be openly available to all stakeholders interested. For more information about the survey, please contact Dumitru Vasilescu at [dumitru.vasilescu@undp.org](mailto:dumitru.vasilescu@undp.org).

### Members

Moldova State Chancellery, National Employment Agency of Moldova, Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova, United Nations, UNDP, UNHCR, OHCHR, IOM, WFP, FAO, UNFPA, UN Women, UNICEF, WHO, ILO, ECHO, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs Switzerland, HELVETAS, ACTED, Terre des Hommes, CLEAR Global, Johanniter, Plan International, WeWorld, People in Need, Help Age, Medecins Sans Frontieres, His Speed, Caritas Moldova, Translators without borders, CWS Global, ICRC Global, ADRA, Keystone Moldova, Centrul Parteneriat pentru Dezvoltare, Palladium, RECH