UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Operations Update
16 May 2023

Refugee child from Ukraine registering for temporary protection with his mother in Moldova. ©UNHCR/E. Ciurca

Figures at a glance

101,835 refugees from Ukraine remaining in Moldova

- **60%** females
- **46%** children
- **20%** elderly

822,422 arrivals from Ukraine since 24 February 2022

Key response figures

- **115,592** refugees received cash assistance since 24 February 2022 (over **USD 86.9M** disbursed)
- **100,415** refugees supported with legal assistance since 24 February 2022
- **2,266** refugees now hosted in **60** refugee accommodation centres supported by UNHCR
- **4,915** refugees provided with psychosocial support and psychological first aid since 24 February 2022

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I used to be a professional chef but now I need to acquire work skills so I can work from home and take care of my children. My job counsellor has suggested that I attend some training courses. We all need to be flexible and able to learn new things.

Felicia, Ukrainian refugee benefitting from counselling services provided by the Rabota platform in Moldova

Recent highlights

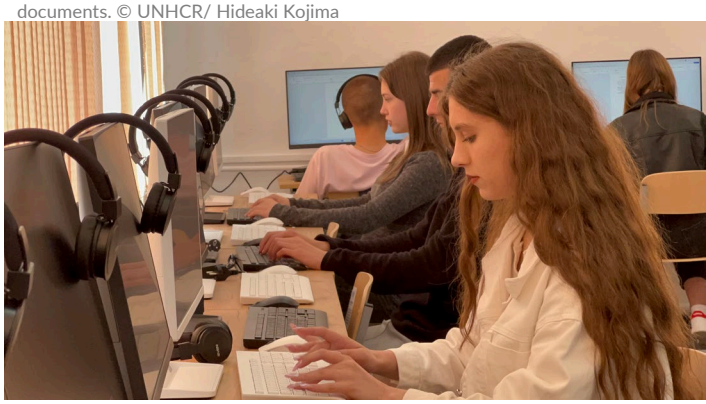
- On 16 May, UNHCR Representative Francesca Bonelli jointly with the Swedish Ambassador Katarina Fried officially launched the Robota platform, which is a community-led initiative that provides job counselling for refugees in Moldova. UNHCR and the National Congress of Ukrainians in Moldova also held an outreach information session for refugees on this platform on the same day in Cahul. So far, the platform provided 922 employment consultations and helped over 90 refugees to get a job in Moldova.
- UNHCR continues facilitating information sessions about access to temporary protection (TP) organized by the General Inspectorate for Migration for local authorities, NGOs and refugee communities. In total, info sessions for frontline workers have reached over 850 people from 77 organizations so far, including telephone operators from the Green Line information hotline, child protection authorities from the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, and others. On 5 and 12 May, 19 Roma community mediators attended a training organized by UNHCR about the TP application procedure.
- On 10 May 2023, UNHCR donated 93 desks, 93 chairs, 72 computers, 72 pairs of headphones, 10 laptops, and 9 printers to four schools in Cahul to support the creation of "tech labs" where Ukrainian students will be able to follow their online Ukrainian classes in Moldovan schools. The donation was coordinated through Cahul Municipality, together with UNICEF. The tech labs will benefit both Moldovan and Ukrainian children alike and provide a space where they can interact with each other.
- On 14 April, UNHCR signed a partnership agreement with the National Center for Child Abuse Prevention (NCCPA). NCCPA is focusing on prevention activities, including delivering school-based (in schools with refugee students enrolled) prevention programming for children, teens, and caregivers, as well as enhancing the capacity of RAC managers, local authorities, and local NGOs on child protection and child safeguarding topics.

Other activities during the reporting period

On 11-12 May, UNHCR co-organized jointly with IOM a workshop in Balti for over 60 participants from around 37 local NGOs, INGOs, refugee-led organizations, UN Agencies, as well as for government representatives, and other local stakeholders. The workshop focused on establishing local referral pathways in the region through a mix of plenary presentations and group exercises. The results of the workshop will be presented at the next local refugee coordination forum meeting in June. UNHCR plans to replicate similar events in other locations to establish localized referral pathways throughout Moldova.

The two-day workshop organized by UNHCR and IOM also included a GBV session focused on how to safely support and refer survivors and persons at risk of GBV; the participants demonstrated interest in receiving training on PSEA and learning how to incorporate PSEA-related policies into their organizations' internal documents. © UNHCR/ Hideaki Kojima

On 5 May, UNHCR and UN Women trained 23 staff from women-led organizations in prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). Also, on 2 May, 25 participants commenced the Investigators Qualification Training Scheme, supported by UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO and IOM, aimed to strengthen local capacity and enhance the response to SEA incidents as well as establish a pool of local investigators.



Students attending the tech lab in "Ioan Vodă" school in Cahul; it is one of the schools that UNHCR supported with furniture and IT equipment on May 10th. © UNHCR/S.Abdulrahman

From 2 to 4 May, UNHCR in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, UNICEF, and AVE Copiii, trained eight child protection specialists from the Guardianship Authority on best interest determination, case management, and temporary protection. It was the second training session for the Guardianship Authority after a first session from 2 to 4 April.

UNHCR completed the monitoring visits of all 60 RACs in 24 raions in Moldova to assess infrastructure, living conditions and cost effectiveness of each facility. Seven protection cases were identified and referred to Protection unit.

On 26 April, UNHCR distributed 10 computers to the government facility for accommodating Moldovan orphan children "Casa Sperantei" in Falesti. This centre is organizing activities for both Moldovan and Ukrainian children living nearby to facilitate social cohesion and peaceful coexistence between them.

In April, UNHCR helped facilitate the tour of the Kharkiv Opera in Chisinau. The troupe comprised 164 displaced artists, as the building of the Kharkiv Opera had been destroyed by shelling in March 2022. The tour encompassed seven performances with the support of the Moldovan Ministry of Culture and the Embassy of Ukraine.

UNHCR operates in the Republic of Moldova directly and through its partners:

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