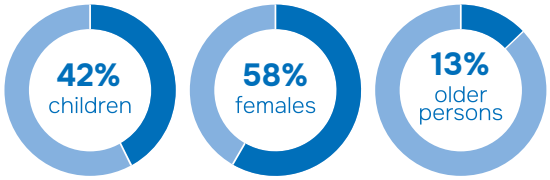
UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency | Republic of Moldova

Operations Update
February 2025

Population figures

~127,700 refugees from Ukraine in Moldova:



~ 1.8 M arrivals since 24 February 2022

Legal status in the country

~ 69,600 refugees have been granted Temporary Protection.

~ 7,000 citizens of Ukraine have been granted resident permits, either permanent or temporary.

~ 1,600 individuals are in the asylum system:

212	458	931
persons with refugee status	humanitarian protection beneficiaries	asylum seekers under examination

~ 18,800
refugees received cash assistance

~ 5,100
refugees supported with legal assistance

~ 3,250
refugees provided with information by UNHCR

~ 500
refugees supported with socio-economic inclusion, including livelihoods

*Figures as of 31 February 2024

Highlights of the month

Valeria Duca, Moldovan artist (left), and Maia Sandu, President of the Republic of Moldova (right), at the opening of the exhibition. To mark three years of war and resilience, the art exhibition "February 2022: Echoes" was organized by UNHCR in partnership with the National Museum of Art of Moldova, the National Congress of Ukrainians in Moldova, INTERSOS Moldova, and PTASHKA. Created by artist Valeria Duca, the exhibition offers a powerful reflection on the profound impact of war and reaffirms UNHCR's commitment to protecting refugees, while celebrating Moldova's enduring solidarity with Ukraine.

We reflect not only on the suffering brought by the war, but also on the incredible courage of the Ukrainian people.

-Maia Sandu, President of the Republic of Moldova.

UNHCR and UNIQLO: unlocking the power of reused clothes to support people in need

UNHCR, in collaboration with its partner NGO Laolaltă and in partnership with UNIQLO – the leading Japanese casual wear designer and retailer – has commenced the distribution of second-hand clothing generously donated by UNIQLO.

This initiative aims to support both refugees and members of the host community by providing access to quality clothing that meets immediate needs, while promoting dignity, choice, and environmental sustainability through the reuse of garments. As temperatures fluctuate, weather-appropriate clothing is essential for helping people stay safe, warm and healthy—especially those facing economic hardship or displacement.

The first distribution took place at the 151 Community Support Centre in Chișinău, where people had the opportunity to visit a free shop and select up to five pieces of second-hand clothing, allowing them to choose what best suited their needs and preferences.

In addition to offering much-needed support, the initiative reinforces a commitment to sustainability by giving a second life to pre-owned clothing and encouraging more responsible consumption practices.

Building Investigative SEAH Capacity in Moldova

UNHCR, in collaboration with the CHS Alliance—a global network of non-governmental humanitarian and development organizations committed to improving the quality and accountability of aid—and the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Network, supported the training of eight participants under the Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (SEAH) Investigation Qualification Training Scheme. This specialized training equipped participants with essential investigative skills to respond to SEAH cases effectively, while ensuring a survivor-centred approach tailored to Moldova's context. Together with five additional individuals who completed the training earlier in 2024, a dedicated local pool of qualified investigators is now being established. This initiative significantly strengthens the operational capacity of the PSEA Network to conduct professional, context-specific investigations and reinforces UNHCR's commitment to accountability, survivor protection, and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse in Moldova.

Empowering refugees: strengthening inclusion and representation at the local level

To enhance refugee representation and advocacy, UNHCR supported the establishment of a "Refugee Council" in Ungheni—a consultative body that provides a platform for meaningful engagement between refugees and local authorities. The council aims to promote refugee inclusion in local decision-making processes, empowering community members to advocate for their rights and address key challenges related to legal protection, access to services, and social integration. It also serves as a trusted space where concerns can be raised collectively, encouraging dialogue, collaboration, and mutual understanding and respect.

Enhancing community-led responses to violence against women

UNHCR, in collaboration with the women-led organisation National Coalition "Life Without Violence," presented a study exploring the barriers that prevent survivors from reporting incidents of gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse. The findings revealed a range of institutional, social, and community-level challenges that continue to hinder safe and timely disclosure. To strengthen local response efforts, UNHCR also introduced a practical tipsheet on technology-facilitated harm, designed to help frontline actors identify digital risks and provide survivor-centred support in line with key protection principles.

Participants of the Capacity-Building Program for CSOs in Moldova celebrate their achievements at the Awards Closing Ceremony, organized by the Inter-Agency Coordination Unit under a UNHCR initiative and conducted by Contact Center. The program strengthened the capacity of 25 representatives from local authorities, refugee-led organizations, and women-led initiatives, enhancing their ability to support refugee communities and contribute to local response efforts.

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.

Australia | Austria | Belgium | Denmark | European Union | France | Germany | Ireland | Italy | New Zealand | Netherlands | Norway | Republic of Korea |United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Contacts:

Bertrand Blanc
Senior Operations Coordinator, blanc@unhcr.org

Monica Vazquez
External Relations Officer, vazquez@unhcr.org

@unhcrmoldova @unhcr_moldova

unhcr.org/md

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

Our work would not be possible without UNHCR's implementing partners.

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