

Over 80% of refugees in Moldova are women and children, including groups at **heightened risk** of GBV, such as Roma women and adolescent girls. Targeted interventions are needed to ensure their **safety and well-being**.

The Government of Moldova included refugee women into national systems, improving their **access to services and protection**, but ongoing support is needed to **sustain** ownership and meet the Istanbul Convention standards.

The foundation of the GBV response in Moldova is sustainability and cultivated partnerships. UNHCR and partners complemented and strengthened the capacity of public authorities to safely refer GBV survivors to services.

## Population figures

~127,000 Ukrainian refugees in Moldova

58% women and girls

42% children (22% boys, 20% girls)

13% older persons

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

\*Figures as of 31 January 2025

## Highlights

**Government capacity building on GBV:** UNHCR, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, trained 78 managers of Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs) and GBV Specialists from local Social Assistance Departments across Moldova to improve the safe referral of GBV disclosures.

**Study on barriers to the disclosure of GBV and SEA:** UNHCR and the National Coalition Life Without Violence, launched a study on the institutional, social and community factors that work as barriers for women to disclose GBV and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) incidents.

**Girl Shine:** UNHCR and partner Casa Marioarei started the planning phase of the GBV prevention curriculum Girl Shine, to be implemented in 2025. This included bilateral meetings, identification of mentors, as well as of refugee and host community adolescent girls and caretakers to participate in the sessions. The curriculum is being localized and adapted to the Moldovan context for greater impact.

**Strengthened coordination with local partners and public authorities enhanced access to GBV and HIV services for refugees:** In partnership with UNAIDS and four local organizations, UNHCR provided HIV prevention, harm reduction, and treatment, case management, mental health support, as well as GBV and Sexual and Reproductive Health information across Moldova. Targeted groups included refugees living with HIV, drug users, sex workers, and LGBTIQ+ persons. Refugees were trained to share this information within their communities. Women-Led Organization grantee Biaz Gul, through UNHCR's support, collaborated with social assistance departments to provide GBV information sessions for women at risk in remote areas.

## Key figures

- In 2024, UNHCR trained around **600 persons**, including local organizations, humanitarian workers and government officials on GBV, GBV Risk Mitigation, and working with LGBTIQ+ refugees.
- As part of its GBV programming, UNHCR and partners provided group **psychosocial support to 500 people** and conducted **12 empowerment and life skills sessions** targeting Roma refugee women. Additionally, **509 people** participated in **skills development** workshops, while **288 received mental health services**. Gynaecological services were provided to **452 individuals**, and **344 people** accessed **legal aid**. Furthermore, **30 individuals** benefited from **GBV case management** and **safe shelter** support.
- UNHCR, in partnership with UNAIDS and four local partners, supported **1,299 refugees with HIV prevention services**, **841 individuals with case management and psychosocial support**, and **1,999 refugees** through **information-sharing** sessions on HIV and GBV. Additionally, **1,317 people** received **dignity kits**. Notably, there is **92% adherence** to HIV treatment initiated by refugees in Moldova.
- Through a grant for Women-Led Organisation **Biaz Gul**, UNHCR supported **300 women** from remote communities with **information** on their rights and access to services. Additionally, **300 women** received **hygiene kits and food items**, **17 women** accessed **legal counselling**, and **25 women** benefited from **psychosocial support**.



Empowerment and safety take center stage as participants in Moldova learn self-defence and conflict de-escalation skills, fostering resilience and confidence.

## Operational Response

Group Psychosocial Support and skills development workshops as safe spaces for refugee and host community women, including from Roma community: Partners Casa Marioarei and Tarna Rom conducted group sessions across Moldova aimed at empowering women, sharing information on sexual and reproductive, and maternal health, and providing them with tools to make decisions that affect their lives. Participants intend to continue gathering after the cycle of the support groups end given its impact.

GBV services provided and activities conducted in a sustainable manner and in coordination with local public authorities in four different locations in Moldova: Casa Marioarei's staff have roles within public administration, which ensures collaboration with social assistance departments. All services are delivered in an integrated way with the government, avoiding parallel systems.

## Working with Partners

Support to the internalization of the Istanbul Convention has been provided through technical capacity to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, as well as the donation of office equipment to the [National Agency for Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence](#) and the development of a concept note for a GBV Training Hub focused on capacity building and coordination on GBV.

In collaboration with local LGBTIQ+ organization Genderdoc-M and ORAM, UNHCR enhanced the capacity of over 50 Government and partner staff to support LGBTIQ+ refugees through a practice-oriented workshop focused on establishing safe and supportive spaces for LGBTIQ+ refugees.

Through a small grant, UNHCR partnered with a network of local LGBTIQ+ activists to develop communications materials and a website page for LGBTIQ+ refugees with information on services and community initiatives provided by local partners Moldova.

## Refugee Coordination Forum

UNHCR co-leads the GBV Sub-Working Group (GBV SWG) with UNFPA. In 2024, the GBV sub-sector, in coordination with UNICEF and IOM, conducted a second GBV Safety Audit, identifying key risks such as intimate partner violence, technology-facilitated GBV, and unsafe accommodation alternatives. Groups at higher risk of GBV include Roma women, adolescent girls and sex workers.

To enhance capacity sharing, a GBV Safety Walk training package was developed, and two workshops with 48 local actors and government staff were conducted. Additionally, the GBV SWG trained approximately 520 people on GBV risk mitigation and safe referrals, and an onboarding session was held for staff in new GBV roles.

The GBV sub-sector, in coordination with UNICEF, IOM and UN Women, and in partnership with IMPACT Self-Defence, conducted a five-day [Self-Defence and Conflict De-Escalation](#) workshop for 29 persons from the Government and local organizations. The initiative aimed at equipping participants to conduct trainings and replicate self-defence techniques while preparing women to handle situations in which their safety is at risk.

In 2025, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and the National Agency to Prevent and Combat Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence will undertake a leadership role in the GBV Sub-Working Group.



Pausing for the camera while actively engaging in 16 Days of Activism events in Moldova, raising awareness and advocating for gender equality and human rights.

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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