

Enrollment rates of refugee children in Moldovan schools remain low. As of the end of 2024, only 3,314 Ukrainian children were enrolled in Moldovan schools, constituting around **13% of school-age children** living in the country.

Limited in-school Romanian language support hinders refugee children's educational **inclusion**, especially those without prior schooling, including Roma children. **Expanding language support** and inclusive education programmes is essential.

Many refugee families prefer the online Ukrainian curriculum, which limits social development and integration for refugee children. UNHCR advocates for national **education inclusion** to ensure a better learning environment and **social growth**.

Population figures

~127,000 refugees from Ukraine in Moldova:

58% women and girls

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

3,314 children (49% girls, 51% boys) were enrolled in Moldovan schools.

25% of those enrolled are in kindergartens, while the rest (75%) are in primary and secondary schools.

44% are in Chişinău while the rest are in Bălţi (5%), Gagauzia (4%), Ştefan Vodă (3%), and Cahul (3%).

14% study in Romanian, while 86% study in Russian.

*Figures as of 31 January 2025

Highlights

Roadmap for Refugee Inclusion in Schools: UNHCR, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Research (MER) and Education Working Group partners, has finalised the Roadmap for the Inclusion of Refugee Children in Moldovan Schools, now under final review by MER. This framework outlines key steps for smoother integration and access to quality education for refugee students.

Teacher Training on Inclusion: Nearly 100 teachers were trained on Roma history, culture, and best practices for integrating children with limited educational backgrounds, in partnership with MER, UNICEF, Tarna Rom, the Roma Task Force, and AVE Copiii. These trainings help foster inclusive classrooms and improve learning experiences for all students.

Innovation: UNHCR and the Orange Moldova Foundation donated digital literacy kits, including tablets and other resources, to 30 schools with refugee students, helping bridge the digital divide and enhance learning opportunities.

National Programme for Phased Integration of Foreigners: UNHCR and UNICEF provided inputs to MER's Phased Integration of Foreigners Mechanism, advocating that refugee children's educational integration in Moldovan schools was adequately represented. This supports a structured, long-term approach to their integration.

Key figures

■ **Romanian language classes:** Over 900 people, including children and adults, benefited from Romanian language classes offered by UNHCR partner Charity Center for Refugees (CCR) in 2024, which helped them integrate into Moldovan society and improved their access to education and employment opportunities.

■ **Literacy classes:** Almost 240 individuals, primarily children, but also some adults from the Roma community, gained essential literacy skills through Romanian-language classes provided by UNHCR partner Tarna Rom in 2024. Tarna Rom also supported the enrollment of 163 children in schools. These initiatives were significant steps in supporting their education and future prospects.

■ **School furniture distribution:** In 2024, UNHCR supported the provision of nearly 500 desks and chairs to schools nationwide, improving learning conditions for both refugee and local children. This support enhanced classroom environments, ensuring children had the necessary resources for effective learning.



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Young Roma children pause for the camera in their classroom, beaming with pride as they practice their newly acquired Romanian language skills. With support from UNHCR, these language lessons provide them with the tools to communicate, learn, and build connections, helping them integrate more smoothly into their new communities. Through education, they gain confidence and a sense of belonging, opening doors to new opportunities for the future.

Operational Response

UNHCR works to ensure equal access to education for refugee children in Moldova through [advocacy and direct support](#). In collaboration with the [Ministry of Education and Research \(MER\)](#), UNHCR advocates for inclusive education policies to support refugees and a monitoring mechanism for children studying the Ukrainian curriculum online. As a result of advocacy efforts, school enrolment guidance has been simplified for refugee students.

To increase [school access](#), UNHCR raises [awareness](#), engages parents, and provides [Romanian language classes](#) to support refugee children's inclusion. UNHCR also supports children with no prior schooling.

Additionally, UNHCR works to expand [higher education](#) access, collaborating with universities under the Sergio Vieira de Mello academic network to create more opportunities for refugee students.

Working with Partners

■ In the education sector, UNHCR works in close collaboration with the [Ministry of Education and Research \(MER\)](#), local [Directorates of Education](#), and [UNICEF](#) to ensure that refugee children have access to quality education. These partnerships focus on integrating refugee students into the national education system, improving their learning outcomes, and providing them with the necessary resources and support to succeed academically and socially in Moldova.

■ UNHCR in collaboration with partners [Charity Centre for Refugees](#) and [Laolaltă](#) offer free Romanian language classes for refugees in several locations. CCR also supports collaboration with Moldovan universities for the enrollment of refugee students of all nationalities. [Tarna Rom](#), UNHCR partner, holds literacy classes for Roma refugee children in six locations throughout Moldova and supports their enrollment in local schools. UNHCR also collaborates with the Moldovan National Youth Council to share youth friendly information, including on topics related to education.

Refugee Coordination Forum

The Refugee Education Working Group (REWG) meets regularly to enhance coordination and provide technical expertise. The REWG is chaired by MER and co-chaired by UNHCR and UNICEF.

In 2024, the REWG prioritized school visits, meetings with parents, and other initiatives to further identify barriers to enrolment and work toward significantly higher school enrolment numbers for the upcoming school year, as well as working toward the adoption of the Roadmap for the full integration of refugee children in Moldovan schools.

Work on the Roadmap continues in 2025, as well as the development of a monitoring mechanism to ensure that all refugee children in Moldova are accessing education.



Children settle into their newly renovated crèche group in Ialoveni, where bright, modern facilities create a nurturing space for learning and play. With improved infrastructure and a safe, inclusive environment, the center now provides enhanced early childhood education and care, giving both refugee and host community children a strong start in their developmental journey.

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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