

Moldova ensures **access** to international **protection**, but rising asylum applications strain the system. UNHCR assists authorities in strengthening procedures, **preventing refoulement**, and ensuring fair asylum access.

Forcibly displaced people and stateless persons face safety risks and limited services. UNHCR conducts **protection monitoring** to assess needs, inform advocacy, and support **targeted** humanitarian interventions.

Moldova provides access to a range of services, but challenges persist for forcibly displaced and stateless persons. UNHCR works with the government and partners to remove barriers and foster inclusion.

Population figures

~127,000 refugees from Ukraine in Moldova:

66,224 Ukrainians and eligible third-country nationals have been granted Temporary Protection

~7,000 Ukrainians who arrived in Moldova after 22 February 2024 had obtained residency status

2,461 individuals are registered in the asylum system, including 207 with refugee status (1 Ukrainian), 421 with humanitarian protection (189 Ukrainians), and 1,883 asylum-seekers (1,305 Ukrainians).

1,889 persons recognized as stateless (as of end 2023)

*Figures as of 31 January 2025

Highlights

UNHCR launched "Reception Hours" at its Chisinau office, giving displaced and stateless individuals a confidential space to seek legal support, referrals, and share feedback on services. Trained UNHCR protection staff provide guidance on asylum procedures, rights of those seeking and granted international protection, and access to essential services. By facilitating direct engagement, this initiative strengthens accountability and ensures individuals receive timely assistance. In 2025, UNHCR will expand this initiative to other municipalities, broadening its reach to vulnerable populations outside the capital.

The Office of the People's Advocate, in partnership with UNHCR, led Human Rights Caravans across Moldova, raising awareness about fundamental rights, social inclusion, and tolerance within local communities. These events engaged local authorities, civil society, and residents, fostering dialogue on human rights and the protection of refugees and stateless individuals.

UNHCR and its legal partner, the Law Center of Advocates (CDA), hosted a roundtable on statelessness, marking the conclusion of the #IBelong Campaign. The discussion focused on identifying stateless persons, addressing barriers to naturalization, and strengthening legal frameworks for nationality rights. UNHCR also coordinated study visits for officials from North Macedonia and Tajikistan to observe Moldova's best practices in preventing and reducing statelessness, fostering international cooperation.

Key figures

- In 2024, over **23,800** forcibly displaced and stateless persons received **legal assistance and counseling** through UNHCR's partner, the Law Center for Advocates (CDA), helping them obtain legal status and access rights and services.
- **5,082 protection monitoring surveys**, comprising **12,288 individuals**, were conducted by UNHCR partners at various locations, including community service centres, refugee accommodation centres, cash enrolment locations, and in the host community. The data collected offered valuable insights into the intentions and current challenges faced by Ukrainian refugees in the country.
- **Nine (9) visits** to Border Crossing Points (BCPs) and the neighboring green border by UNHCR, in coordination with the General Inspectorate of Border Police to better understand government operations as they relate to the reception and processing of asylum-seekers and to offer recommendations for possible improvements.
- **Four (4) local referral pathway** were conducted in municipalities throughout the country, bringing together local public authorities, international agencies, and civil society organizations to identify critical services needed for refugees in their communities and corresponding service providers. service providers in their communities.



Protection desk staff provide counseling to refugees, offering crucial information, guidance, and referrals to essential services. By addressing protection concerns and individual needs, they help ensure refugees access their rights, receive necessary support, and navigate challenges in their new environment.

Operational Response

UNHCR ensures access to international protection and safeguards the human rights of forcibly displaced and stateless individuals in Moldova. It provides legal aid, protection services, and protection monitoring to identify risks, assist asylum-seekers in securing documentation, and uphold their rights.

UNHCR advocates for fair treatment, equal access to services, and legal safeguards for vulnerable populations. It works to ensure that those in need receive the necessary protection and assistance to rebuild their lives in safety and dignity.

UNHCR supports Moldova in enhancing its asylum and border systems, promoting policies aligned with international protection standards, and ensuring compliance with EU and international laws and standards. This assistance helps strengthen Moldova's legal framework to better protect refugees and stateless individuals.

Working with Partners

UNHCR collaborates with the Law Center of Advocates (CDA) to provide legal aid, protection services, and advocacy for forcibly displaced and stateless individuals in Moldova. Through protection monitoring, they identify risks and support asylum-seekers in securing documentation and rights.

UNHCR also partners with the Moldova Ombudsman to safeguard human rights and ensure fair access to essential services.

In coordination with the Moldovan Border Police and the General Inspectorate for Migration (IGM), as well as the FRONTEX Fundamental Rights Office, UNHCR supports the strengthening of national asylum and border systems, promoting policies that uphold international protection standards and support vulnerable populations.

Refugee Coordination Forum

UNHCR co-chairs the Protection Working Group (PWG) and its Protection Advisory Group (PAG) with the Office of the Ombudsman. The PWG coordinates protection efforts through its Sub-Working Groups and Task Forces on Child Protection, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Anti-Trafficking, Disability and Age, and Roma issues. It also organized ten training and information sessions for PWG and Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) members on topics such as Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE), Sex, Age, and Disability Disaggregation (SADD), Referral Pathways, and Legal Updates from Ukraine, reaching 450 participants.

In collaboration with the Basic Needs Working Group, UNHCR supported the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP) in closing 18 Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs). This process ensured the protection-sensitive and participatory relocation of 292 households (700 individuals).



Protection monitoring teams engage with refugees to assess their specific needs, identify risks, and gather firsthand insights to inform targeted responses. This process helps strengthen protection mechanisms and advocate for solutions that enhance refugees' well-being and uphold their 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.

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



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For more information, please visit the [Operational Data Portal for Moldova](#) or the [Global Focus page for Moldova](#).

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