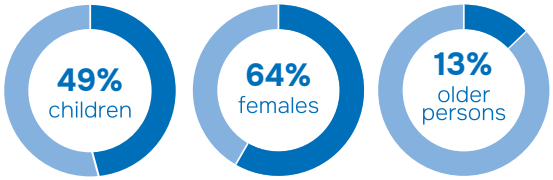
UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency | Republic of Moldova

Operations Update
May 2025

Population figures

~128,000 Ukrainian refugees in Moldova:



~ 1.8 M arrivals since 24 February 2022

Legal status in the country

~ 74,800 refugees have been granted Temporary Protection.

~ 6,500 citizens of Ukraine have been granted resident permits, either permanent or temporary.

~ 1,800 individuals are in the asylum system:

1,163	506	143
asylum seekers under examination	humanitarian protection beneficiaries	Statelessness determination applicants

~ 20,400
refugees received cash assistance

~ 4,000
refugees supported with legal assistance

~ 7,500
refugees provided with information by UNHCR

~ 600
refugees supported with socio-economic inclusion, including livelihoods

*Figures are for 2025 as of 31 May 2025

Highlights of the month

On 23 May 2025, UNHCR partner the National Congress of Ukrainians of Moldova, celebrated Vyshyvanka Day (observed on 20 May), honouring Ukrainian culture and heritage. The traditional Ukrainian Vyshyvanka and the Moldovan Ia, both embroidered shirts symbolising identity and tradition, were proudly worn side by side, reflecting unity, solidarity, and shared belonging between refugees and host communities. Such events help sensitise communities and mobilise solidarity for refugees, promoting inclusion and mutual respect.

"We are all human. We have traditions, art, and music that may be different, yet alike at the same time. These should bring us closer, not apart "

-Ion, a resident of Chișinău

Strengthening youth leadership

As part of its 2025 child protection programme, UNHCR's partner, the National Centre for Child Abuse Prevention (CNPAC), organised a two-day workshop on Peer-to-peer facilitation: challenges and solutions. The workshop brought together 15 children from three regions of Moldova and strengthened their ability to lead peer discussions on violence prevention.

Through interactive techniques, collaborative exercises, and experience-sharing, participants gained confidence, practical tools, and strengthened their leadership skills in promoting safety and peer support.

In addition, CNPAC, with the Moldovan National Youth Council, held a second workshop titled "How to Cope with Stress Before Exams", which engaged 16 adolescents. Through peer discussions, participants explored practical ways to manage stress and anxiety linked to exams. The session promoted mental well-being, strengthened peer support, and helped build resilience among refugee and host communities alike.

Fostering inclusive education for refugee children

The Ministry of Education and Research of Moldova, with the support of UNICEF and UNHCR, has launched an appeal to international donors to support the integration of Ukrainian refugee children into the national education system. During the launch in Chișinău, the Ministry presented the 2025–2026 Education Roadmap, which outlines key measures, including language courses, accelerated learning programmes and inclusive education support. The plan targets over 15,000 school-age and 9,800 preschool-age refugee children and requires an estimated €35.5 million in funding. The Roadmap represents another important step in advancing the humanitarian-development nexus, ensuring that refugee children have access to quality education while contributing to the long-term strengthening of Moldova's education system and promoting social inclusion for both refugee and host communities.

Promoting inclusion on International Children's Day

To celebrate International Children's Day, the Charity Centre for Refugees (CCR), in collaboration with the General Inspectorate for Migration and UNHCR, organized an event focused on friendship, respect, and peaceful coexistence. Children of asylum seekers from various countries joined their local peers in interactive activities that fostered mutual understanding and positive engagement. Another event, organized by CCR in partnership with UNHCR, brought together refugee and local children from Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Belarus, and Moldova. Participants took part in games, creative workshops, and a surprise planetarium experience in an inclusive setting designed to encourage learning, connection, and shared memories. Through such initiatives, UNHCR and its partners continue to promote the well-being and social inclusion of refugee children across Moldova.

Promoting human rights across Moldova

UNHCR, in collaboration with Amnesty International and the People's Advocate Office, conducted a workshop to strengthen the protection of asylum seekers' rights in Moldova. The People's Advocate Office (Ombudsman), Moldova's independent national human rights institution, is mandated to promote accountability and oversee the protection of human rights across all state institutions. The workshop brought together staff from the General Inspectorate for Migration (IGM) and the Ombudsman Office, enhancing their understanding of international and national standards governing asylum, including the use of country-of-origin information and case studies on asylum seekers from Russia, Belarus and LGBTIQ+ refugees. The event also served as a platform for sharing experiences, discussing practical solutions, and reinforcing the importance of applying a rights-based approach in all interactions with individuals seeking international protection.

As part of Moldova's Cities of Solidarity initiative, a Peaceful Coexistence Project was inaugurated at the Public Sports Specialized School No. 1 in Bălți, promoting inclusion through sports. The launch included a tour of the Academy and a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially mark the start of the project. By bringing together young people from refugee and host communities, the initiative aims to sustain peaceful coexistence, mutual understanding, and stronger community ties in one of Moldova's key refugee-hosting cities.

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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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.