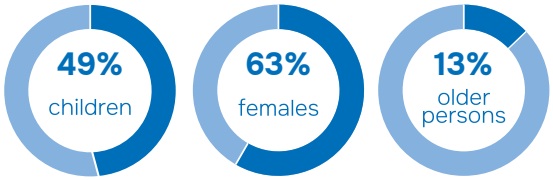
UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency | Republic of Moldova

Operations Update
August 2025

Population figures

~135,000 Ukrainian refugees in Moldova:



~ 2.2 M arrivals since 24 February 2022

Legal status in the country

~ 79,500	citizens of Ukraine granted Temporary Protection.
~ 6,400	citizens of Ukraine granted residence permits, either permanent or temporary.
~ 850*	individuals are in the asylum system, including statelessness determination applicants.*
~ 859	recognized refugees and beneficiaries of humanitarian protection.

*Figure as of 31 July 2025

~ 21,747
refugees received cash assistance

~ 11,000
refugees supported with legal assistance

~ 12,500
refugees provided with information by UNHCR

~ 950
refugees supported with socio-economic inclusion, including livelihoods

*Figures are for 2025 as of 31 August 2025

Highlights of the month

Comrat State University is UNHCR's new partner in the Sergio Vieira de Mello Academic Chairs Network, becoming the third academic institution in Moldova to join this network. This initiative strengthens cooperation with the academic environment by promoting research in the field of forced displacement, integrating it into the teaching process, improving communication with the community, and leveraging academic expertise to promote refugee rights, ensure their protection, and contribute to broader inclusion efforts.
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"My strength and comfort come from my family and our dog. My friends support me, and my hobbies help me detach from the problems."

-Hennadiy, a Ukrainian refugee living in Moldova

Supporting Moldova's efforts to meet international standards

In August, UNHCR strengthened protection capacity across multiple sectors. On 21 August, UNHCR conducted a training session for 12 staff members of the Ombudsman Office, focusing on "International and National Standards on Refugee Protection: Legislation, Statutes, and Institutional Best Practices." The exercise enhanced participants' knowledge of the international and national legal framework on international protection, including the 1951 Geneva Convention, the 1967 Protocol, regional instruments, and national legislation, with a focus on the principle of non-refoulement. It further addressed the protection of refugee children and the best interests of the child, the safeguarding of human rights at the border with special attention to vulnerable groups, and the specific role of the Ombudsman.

Strengthening protection and inclusion for refugees

UNHCR and its partners strengthened protection in Moldova through initiatives on child protection, prevention of violence and abuse, support to persons with disabilities, and inclusion of Roma refugees. As part of capacity-building, UNHCR trained partner staff ACTED and field staff on protection case referrals, including child protection, gender-based violence, and disability-related cases.

UNHCR partner Keystone assisted refugees and host community members with disabilities through the provision of wheelchairs, assistive devices, and hygiene kits, improving mobility and dignified access to services. In preparation of the new school year, UNHCR partner Tarna Rom distributed 52 school kits to Roma refugee children and, together with UNICEF, trained teachers on non-discrimination, child protection, and inclusive practices in schools. All these actions did not only reinforced protection in Moldova but also created safer, more inclusive spaces where refugees and Moldovans can access services.

Supporting an evidence-based programming and refugee response

The UNHCR 2025 Q2 Participatory Assessment findings show that refugees are interested to integrate better in Moldova, yet language barriers remain as well as limited access to healthcare, education, employment, and information. Refugees residing in temporary accommodation centres or rural regions, particularly in the North and South, reported fewer opportunities. While youth tended to adapt more easily, the other groups experienced greater isolation. Adult participants renting private apartments in the central region reported better integration where community-based support such as access to Community Service Centres activities and volunteering opportunities were available.

The data was collected between April and June 2025 through 20 focus group discussions attended by 126 participants, of whom 79% were women and 21% men. The factsheet was complemented by an interactive dashboard to visualize the data, compare with Q1, and support evidence-based programming.

Changes to the EU+ Air Transfer Programme

On 31 August 2025, UNHCR withdrew from the EU+ Air Transfer Programme due to funding constrictions, an initiative launched together with IOM in March 2022 under the European Commission's Solidarity Platform (facilitated by DG-HOME) as an urgent and regional solidarity response to the Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine. IOM has assumed full responsibility for all EU+ Air Transfer Programme activities starting from 1 September 2025. Since its inception, UNHCR and IOM facilitated the transfer of 2,817 individuals to 16 pledging EU Member States and associated countries, including Austria, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, and Switzerland. UNHCR thanks the donors, partners and pledging countries for the joint efforts which enabled thousands of refugees to find protection and safety.

Before the new school year, UNHCR managed to equip classrooms in four schools with more than 200 new desks and chairs to create better learning conditions for refugees and Moldovans alike. Every classroom should be a safe and welcoming space where all children can grow and enjoy learning. © UNHCR

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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Contacts:

Frederic Cussigh
Deputy Representative, cussigh@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.

acted, ave COPIII, people's advocate, CHARITY CCR, CDA, Humanitarian Aid Center of the Jewish Community of Moldova, CNPAC, CRS, CASA MĂRIOAREI, INTERSOS, KEYSTONE MOLDOVA, LAOTALA, NCUM, tarna rom, UNAIDS

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