GUVERNUL REPUBLICII MOLDOVA

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

Refugee Coordination Forum
Republic of Moldova
Terms of Reference
2026

1. Background

Since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the Republic of Moldova has remained one of the countries most substantially affected by refugee movements from Ukraine. The initial mass influx that occurred in 2022 has transitioned into a protracted displacement context, requiring sustained coordination and adaptation of humanitarian, protection, and inclusion efforts. In response, UNHCR and partners have maintained the *Ukraine Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) 2025–2026*, which continues to provide the inter-agency operational framework to support refugees from Ukraine and affected host communities across Moldova and neighbouring countries. The RRP outlines strategic priorities, sectoral objectives, and collective actions agreed by government authorities, UN agencies, international organizations, and civil society to ensure coherent and needs-driven responses throughout the plan period.

The Moldovan national response remains anchored in principles of solidarity, responsibility-sharing, and multi-stakeholder engagement. The Government of the Republic of Moldova, local authorities, and the Moldovan people have demonstrated sustained commitment to the protection and inclusion of Ukrainian refugees, reinforcing the core objectives of the *Global Compact on Refugees (GCR)*. The GCR establishes a framework for predictable, equitable responsibility-sharing and emphasizes national ownership, partnerships across sectors and stakeholders, and solutions that enhance self-reliance and social cohesion.

Within this operational and policy context, an inter-agency *Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF)* has been active since March 2022 to facilitate structured engagement, information sharing, strategic planning, and collective accountability across the refugee response in Moldova. The RCF operates as the primary coordination platform under the joint leadership of the Government of the Republic of Moldova and UNHCR, ensuring that stakeholders at national and local levels are aligned in assessment, planning, implementation, monitoring, and planning for adjustments based on evolving needs. The RCF also serves to broaden and sustain the support base for refugees and affected communities, leveraging partnerships with UN agencies, development actors, civil society organizations, donors, and other relevant entities in line with the GCR and the objectives of the 2025–2026 RRP.

2. Objective and activities

The Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) is the primary inter-agency platform for coordination and oversight of the multi-sector response to the needs of refugees from Ukraine in the Republic of Moldova. The RCF brings together Government institutions, UN agencies, national and

international non-governmental organizations, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, faith-based and community-based organizations, academia, embassies, donors, and financial and development institutions.

The objective of the RCF is to support national arrangements for the coordination of a comprehensive, protection-centred, and solutions-oriented refugee response, in line with the Ukraine Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP), national asylum and inclusion frameworks, and the principles of the Global Compact on Refugees.

To achieve this objective, the RCF carries out the following activities:

- Provide overall strategic coordination and guidance to support the joint development, implementation, monitoring, and review of the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP), ensuring coherence across sectors and alignment with national priorities.
- Facilitate multisectoral and inter-agency analysis, including needs assessments, protection monitoring, and response performance reviews, to inform evidence-based decision-making by RCF members and the Government of the Republic of Moldova.
- Promote harmonized approaches to information management, monitoring, and reporting, including the collection, analysis, and dissemination of timely and disaggregated data by age, gender, and diversity, to support accountability, transparency, and adaptive programming.
- Promote localization and decentralized coordination by supporting and strengthening coordination mechanisms at sub-national and local levels, in collaboration with local authorities, host communities, and civil society actors, to enhance complementarity, coverage, and impact of interventions.
- Support the systematic mainstreaming of cross-cutting priorities—including gender equality, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), accountability to affected populations (AAP), mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and inclusion—across sectors and throughout the refugee response programme cycle.
- Support preparedness and contingency planning for potential changes in the operational context, including new or increased refugee arrivals, protection risks, or shocks affecting refugees and host communities.
- Facilitate collective advocacy and resource mobilization efforts by promoting coordinated messaging, evidence-based prioritization, and engagement with donors and development partners to support strategic response objectives.

3. RCF structure and operation

The Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) is composed of the following categories of members:

- Representatives of Government institutions at national and sub-national levels with responsibilities related to the refugee response.
- Representatives of United Nations agencies, international organizations, and national and international non-governmental organizations that coordinate, implement, and/or report activities under the RCF framework, including partners contributing to or implementing activities under the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP).
- Representatives of the donor community supporting the refugee response in Moldova.
- Representatives of other national and international civil society organizations considered by the RCF to be relevant or strategic to promoting a comprehensive and coordinated response.
- Representatives of community-based organizations, including refugee-led organizations.
- Representatives of private sector entities contributing to the refugee response in Moldova.
- Representatives of academic and research institutions contributing to analysis, evidence generation, or policy dialogue related to the refugee response.

RCF member organizations are expected to designate representatives with appropriate decision-making authority and technical capacity, in line with their mandate and areas of engagement, to ensure effective participation, follow-up, and implementation of agreed actions.

The RCF will establish and maintain coordination linkages with relevant national and inter-institutional coordination mechanisms—such as the Inter-Ministerial Commission on Migration and Asylum and the Crisis Management Center—as well as with sub-national coordination platforms addressing refugee response matters, in order to promote complementarity, avoid duplication, and ensure coherence across coordination structures.

RCF membership is inclusive and open to organizations actively engaged in the response to refugees from Ukraine and affected host communities in Moldova. Organizations seeking membership are required to submit an expression of interest via email to the RCF coordination team (mdachrcf@unhcr.org), providing information on the organization's mandate, planned or ongoing activities contributing to the refugee response, and areas of geographic and sectoral engagement. Upon confirmation of membership, organizations will be referred to the relevant Working Groups, Sub-Working Groups, and/or Task Forces to ensure inclusion in coordination structures, communications, and meetings.

Active members of the RCF are organizations that:

1. Have formally requested and been granted membership in the RCF.

2. Actively participate in relevant WG/SWG/TF meetings and coordination activities.
3. Participate in RCF plenary meetings.
4. Coordinate and report on their activities in a timely manner through agreed inter-agency information management and reporting tools (including 5W reporting, ActivityInfo, inter-agency updates, and the Refugee Funding Tracker, as applicable).
5. Contribute to the development, implementation, or monitoring of the Regional Refugee Response Plan.

The Inter-Agency Coordination Team will periodically consult RCF members to confirm continued active participation and engagement in the coordination mechanisms.

Organizations that do not meet the criteria for active membership but wish to remain informed of RCF discussions and outputs may be granted **observer status** and will receive relevant communications, without participating in decision-making processes.

4. Coordination of the RCF

The RCF is co-led by the Government of the Republic of Moldova and UNHCR. UNHCR's Inter-Agency Coordination Team provides technical and consultative support to facilitate the coordination and implementation of the response under the RRP. In close collaboration with Working Group, Sub-Working Group, and Task Force leads, the Inter-Agency Coordination Team supports strategic alignment and adherence to the priorities established in the RRP.

The Inter-Agency Coordination Team is also responsible for convening RCF plenary and sector/Working Group coordination meetings, preparing and circulating agendas and minutes, arranging meeting logistics, and tracking follow-up on agreed action points.

5. Working groups, sub working groups and task forces

Under the Refugee Coordination Forum, coordination is carried out through sector Working Groups, Sub-Working Groups/Sub-Sector Working Groups, and Task Forces, as well as Local Refugee Coordination Forums at sub-national level.

Protection, which also comprises GBV and Child Protection, and includes the Anti-Trafficking, and Disability and Age Taskforces.

Sector Working Groups / Sub-Sector Working Groups

- Protection Working Group (also comprising GBV and Child Protection), including:
    - Anti-Trafficking Task Force
    - Disability and Age Task Force

- Inclusion and Solutions Working Group (including technical groups as required, e.g. cash-based interventions and housing)
- Health and Nutrition Working Group (including the MHPSS Reference Group)
- Education Working Group
- Information Management Working Group (cross-cutting support to the overall response)

Cross-cutting Task Forces / Networks

- Accountability to Affected People (AAP) Task Force
- Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Network

The RCF includes Local Refugee Coordination Forums (LRCFs), established in key locations hosting refugees, to ensure locally tailored coordination with local authorities, civil society and other partners. LRCFs operate in line with the generic Terms of Reference for LRCFs, adapted to the needs and context of each location where they are activated.

The RCF Coordination, in consultation with WG/SWG/TF leads and relevant Government counterparts, may endorse the establishment, revision, or closure of WGs/SWGs/TFs, as well as changes in leadership, based on evolving needs, capacity, and response priorities.

Each WG/SWG/TF supports the planning, implementation, monitoring and review of the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) under the overall coordination of the RCF. WGs/SWGs/TFs bring together organizations contributing to thematic objectives, in accordance with their mandates and areas of engagement.

6. Meetings of the Refugee Coordination Forum

The RCF plenary will meet every six months and may hold ad hoc meetings, as necessary, convened by the Refugee Coordinator with the support of the Inter-Agency Coordination Team. The agenda will be developed based on inputs from the Working Groups, Sub-Working Groups, and Task Forces, as well as from the INGO Forum.

In addition, the Inter-Agency Coordination Team will convene WG/SWG/TF leads on a periodic basis to support strategic monitoring of the response, facilitate feedback and problem-solving across sectors, and track follow-up on agreed RCF actions.

7. Information Management and Reporting Products

The RCF will support the Government-led response by maintaining and disseminating key information management platforms, tools, and services to enable evidence-based decision-

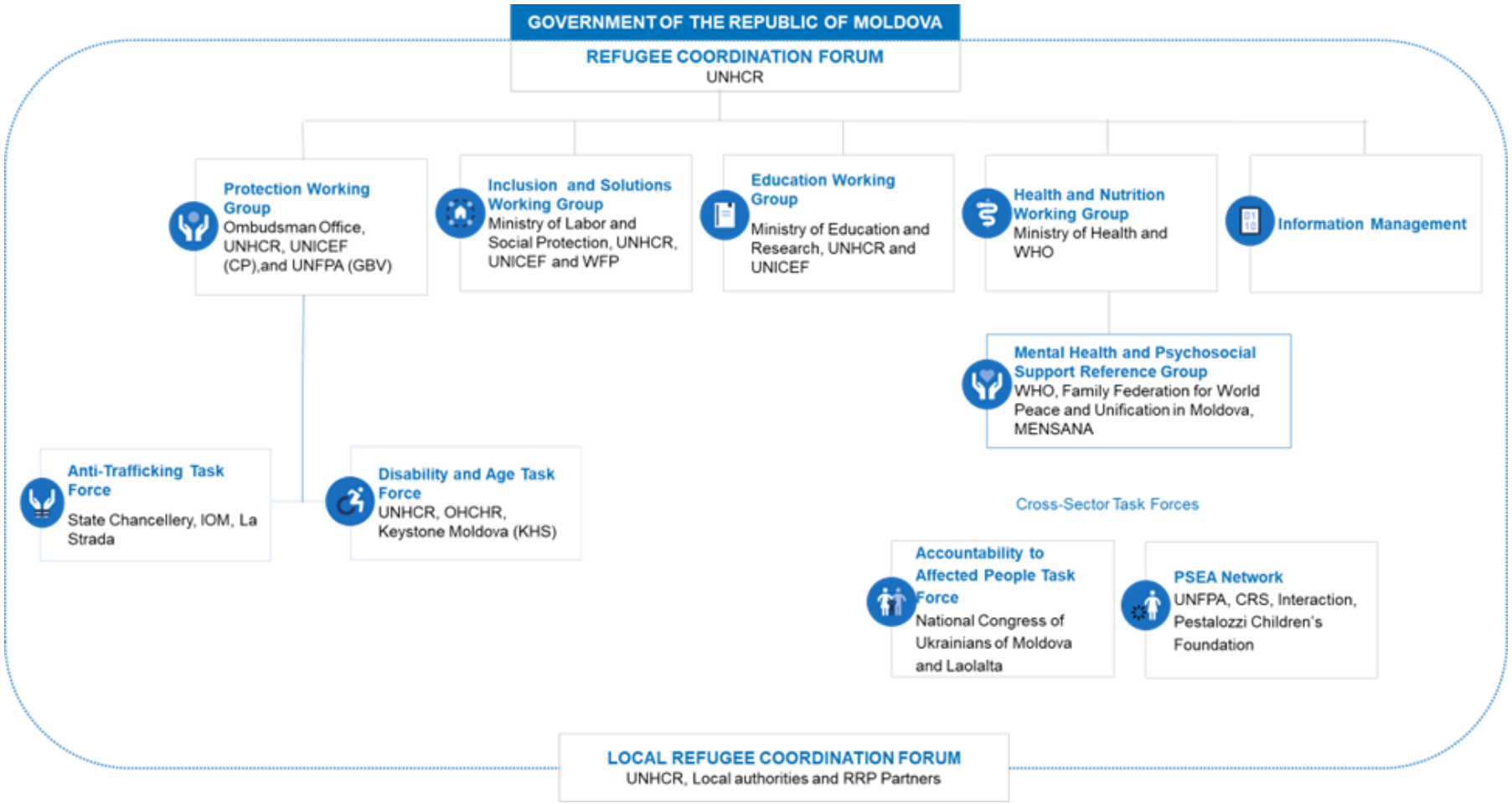
making, coordination, and accountability. These include, as applicable: the Operational Data Portal (ODP), ActivityInfo, the Daily Trends Dashboard and the Assessment Registry (data entry and dashboard.

The RCF will produce Inter-Agency Updates on a quarterly basis to provide an overview of progress and key developments in the refugee response. In addition, each Working Group/Sub-Working Group/Task Force (WG/SWG/TF) will be guided by an agreed workplan to support implementation tracking, results follow-up, and coherence across coordination structures.

8. Validity of the terms of reference

These terms of reference will be reviewed whenever necessary to ensure compliance with the objectives and functions that justified their creation.

GUVERNUL REPUBLICII MOLDOVA

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

Annex. I Refugee Coordination Forum structure