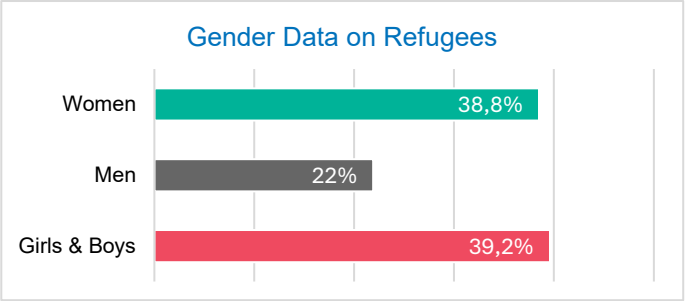
OPERATIONAL UPDATE
July 2026

Kitchen facilities at a Refugee Accommodation Centre, where UNHCR has supported the provision of daily meals for refugee residents since mid-April 2026. ©UNHCR/Alberto Favero

KEY FIGURES

145,803 Ukrainian refugees are in Moldova.



55,478 Ukrainian refugees granted Temporary Protection.

6,483 citizens of Ukraine granted residence permits, either permanent or temporary.

5,933 refugees received cash assistance.

~10,900 refugees received legal assistance.

~7,000 individuals accessed information through the UNHCR-supported helpline.

~1,250 refugees supported with specialized GBV and Child Protection services.

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

As of July 2026, **145,803 refugees** from Ukraine are present in the Republic of Moldova, representing an increase of nearly 13,000 people compared to July 2025. Many refugees have achieved greater stability and self-reliance; however, those with acute vulnerabilities still face challenges in meeting basic needs and accessing adequate care and support services. Efforts therefore remain focused on supporting refugees' inclusion in national systems and services, alongside targeted protection and assistance for those with heightened needs.

The Refugee Accommodation Centre (RAC) network continues to consolidate, while the need for affordable housing persists. The number of centres has decreased from 56 in 2023 to 11 as of 22 July 2026, with two additional centres in the process of closing. Upon completion of the consolidation process, nine RACs are expected to remain operational. As of end-July, the remaining centres accommodated 628 refugees with significant care and support needs, including older people (33 per cent), children (30 per cent), and persons with disabilities (12 per cent). Many require daily assistance with mobility, personal care, medication management, or supervision. Ensuring access for Temporary Protection beneficiaries to national care services will be critical to providing sustainable support for refugees with longer-term care needs.

HIGHLIGHTS

Household Economic Capacity Assessment: Key Trends and Findings

The 2026 Household Economic Capacity Assessment (HECA), conducted by UNHCR and REACH, examined income, expenditure, coping strategies, and economic capacity among refugee households registered on Moldova's Temporary Protection platform. The assessment shows that many refugees have established relatively stable lives in Moldova and are increasingly participating in the local economy: **72 per cent of households had lived in the country for at least two years** and **56 per cent for more than three years**, while only **4 per cent** reported concrete plans to move within the next 12 months. **40 per cent of household members aged 15 and above were employed**, including through both formal and informal arrangements. Among those employed, **76 per cent reported having a written contract or work arrangement**, while informal arrangements included casual labour and verbal permanent or fixed-term agreements.

At the same time, the assessment highlights persistent economic vulnerabilities affecting a notable share of refugee households. **23 per cent of households** were living below the Minimum Expenditure Basket threshold (2,200 MDL/110 EUR), with vulnerability particularly pronounced among **households without employment, those living in rural areas, and households with children**. These households have less capacity to cover essential expenses through their own income and are more exposed to economic shocks.

Limited financial buffers further constrain households' ability to absorb such shocks. **Half of surveyed households reported having no savings,** while those with savings largely used them for essential expenses such as food, rent, and utilities. Housing-related costs remain a particular source of financial pressure: **28 per cent reported difficulties paying utility bills** and **17 per cent struggled to pay rent**. Overall, household spending was concentrated on basic needs, with **food accounting for 36 per cent, accommodation 34 per cent and utilities 18 per cent** of household expenditure.

Taken together, the findings point to a refugee population that is increasingly settled and economically engaged, but with significant differences in households' ability to sustain themselves independently. As humanitarian assistance declines, continued efforts to strengthen **access to employment, national social protection** and **targeted support for households facing persistent income gaps** will be important to consolidate socio-economic inclusion and prevent economically vulnerable households from falling into deeper hardship.

Protection

- To ensure that people who may need international protection can access timely information and confidential legal advice, UNHCR's partner, the Ombudsman Office, installed an asylum information board at Palanca border crossing point and prepared three additional boards for Chișinău International Airport and Otaci BCP. The boards inform people of their right to seek asylum in Moldova and provide information on accessing free, confidential legal assistance.
- UNHCR Moldova, in collaboration with the Regional Bureau for Europe, supported women-led and refugee women-led organizations through a regional capacity-building session on accessing grants, proposal development, donor engagement and funding diversification. Organizations also exchanged experience and explored peer-to-peer support, including through UNHCR's Peer Capacity Strengthening Toolkit. The activity strengthened local organizations' capacity to diversify funding, build donor relationships and sustain community-based protection responses.
- In July, UNHCR and partners supported opportunities for refugee and host-community children to learn, connect and participate in inclusive activities. Bilingual Ukrainian/Romanian book readings and creative activities organized with Ukrainian author Yulia Ivashutkina, AVE Copiii, Laolalta and the Lesya Ukrainka Library reached 66 children, promoting language learning, psychosocial well-being and cultural identity. In parallel, the Ministry of Education and Research, with support from

UNHCR partner Charity Centre for Refugees, enabled 120 refugee children (64 girls and 56 boys) from Ukraine, Angola and Gaza to attend a 10-day summer camp in Rădoaia Village, providing access to non-formal education, creative and cultural activities, and opportunities for social inclusion and intercultural exchange.

- As of the end of July, the Refugee Response Green Line, a key information and accountability channel throughout the refugee response, was formally phased out. Since its launch, the service has handled over **171,000 calls** from refugees and host community members. Ahead of the closure, UNHCR shared alternative information and referral channels through an updated contact directory on the UNHCR Help Page, helping refugees maintain access to relevant government, UN and NGO services.
- UNHCR Moldova hosted a Joint Meeting on Return Preparedness with UNHCR Ukraine and key implementing partners, focusing on information sharing, counselling mechanisms, and potential areas for cross-border collaboration in support of refugees from Ukraine residing in Moldova. Discussions highlighted the use of existing community infrastructure, including Community Service Centres and Refugee Councils, to provide accurate, region-specific information, and tailored support for vulnerable returnees. At the end of the meeting, a **Joint Action Plan** was proposed which would cover cross-border referral pathways, standardized information packages, and joint counselling sessions.

Socio-economic inclusion

- On 9 July, UNHCR signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** with the National Employment Agency to strengthen refugees' access to labour market information, skills development and employment services. The agreement establishes joint leadership, in line with the Global Compact on Refugees, in developing and implementing an operational framework that bridges humanitarian assistance with resilience-based, development-oriented employment interventions, including access to labour market information, skills development, and active labour market measures. The partnership also aims to strengthen the capacity of national institutions to deliver more inclusive employment services and support refugees' transition towards greater self-reliance.

> *"Community is a source of strength, a source of life. It is impossible to live separately from each other, because you cannot survive that way,"* says Raisa, a Ukrainian refugee.

Read the full story [link] about Raisa, a refugee mother of nine, who turned her own experience of displacement into a commitment to support and connect other Ukrainian refugees in Soroca.

DONORS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Australia | Belgium | Denmark | European Union | Finland | Germany | Ireland | Italy | Norway | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

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

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