This factsheet provides up-to-date data about the demographic profiles of refugees from Ukraine hosted by the Republic of Moldova. It is the first in a series that will examine the changing situation and provide data and evidence on the gender dimension of the current humanitarian crises as additional new data become available. It was produced by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) in close cooperation with the Border Police of the Republic of Moldova.

BACKGROUND

On 24 February the Government of the Republic of Moldova declared a state of emergency, following the outbreak of hostilities in neighboring Ukraine. Authorities established a special regime of entry and exit from the country, special measures for the protection of refugees, the protection of the population and of the country’s institutions. The Government has declared its readiness to receive refugees from Ukraine and is cooperating with the UN, as well as local and international organizations to respond to the unfolding crisis. The Government has set up a Crisis Management Centre under the Prime Minister’s Office, which is supported by partners in this plan. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is coordinating the Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) established in the first weeks of the emergency, taking a multi-sectoral approach to the ongoing interventions, ensuring complementarity to government responses.

Since Russia’s invasion, more than 3.3 million refugees\(^1\) have fled Ukraine, the vast majority being women and children. Most of the refugees fled to Poland, Romania, Moldova, Hungary and Slovakia. According to the Border Police data, as of 18 March 2022, Moldova had welcomed in its territory about 355,426 refugees, out of whom more than 320,000 were citizens of Ukraine.

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\(^1\) Data as of 18 March 2022, https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine

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As of 10 March, Moldova was hosting more than 48,000 child refugees under the age of 18, which represents 46% of all refugees residing in the country. Among all children, the largest cohort is those aged 0-6 years accounting for 40%. Every third child is aged between 7 and 11 years old and every fifth child is a young teenager. In absolute terms, there are around 7,000 children under the age of 3; 12,000 are aged 3 to 6 years; and 16,000 are of primary school age.

Girls account for 49% among the youngest children (<11 years) and up to 53% among the teenagers. Overall, adolescent girls represent 10% of women refugees. Adolescent girls, single women travelling alone or with children, pregnant and elderly women are among those who are particularly at risk and require a coordinated and effective protection response.

On average, there are 42 children under 6 years per 100 women refugees, or 77 children under 11 years per 100 women refugees. Women are shouldering an immense burden of childcare compounded with stress, fear, psychological distress, limited access to basic services and heightening risk for sexual and gender-based violence, and human trafficking.

The availability of timely and high-quality data can help to understand how better to respond to the specific needs of different groups of women and men affected by crises and conflicts. UN Women, in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Border Police of Moldova has initiated additional data collection to assess the needs and vulnerabilities of refugees. This will be used to inform a Rapid Gender Assessment on the situation in Ukraine.