

INCLUSION AND LIVELIHOODS

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Residents and diaspora from a small village in Moldova help refugees from Ukraine to accommodate

Carpineni, a village located in the center of Moldova with 8000 residents, mobilized right after the war started in Ukraine to provide support to incoming refugees regardless of their age or ethnicity. More than 1,500 people already found accommodation at temporary shelters, organized in a hurry but by the book. Among them are siblings Katya and Yaroslav. They came from Odessa.

Yaroslav, a 17-year-old brother, says he was horrified to go “nowhere”: “It’s awful to have to leave your home and flee to another country where you have no friends and try to rebuild your life from scratch.”

“We thought they’d put us in tents. However, we found beds, showers, heat, and hot meals. It is like a miracle. We’re lucky. We are also provided with a connection to the Internet to continue our distance learning. Everyone is trying to make us feel comfortable here,” Katya added.

The siblings hope to return home to Ukraine soon with their mother and reunite with their father. “No matter how serious the situation is, we know that Ukraine is our home,” says Yaroslav.

The Carpineni hometown association mobilized local volunteers to support efficient management of the refugee flow, collection of donations, and arrangement of shelters. The Government of Switzerland covers part of the accommodation and food costs [within UNDP’s “Migration and local development” project](#).

In total, Switzerland and UNDP are providing \$59,000 to support the communities that have made the greatest effort to host refugees.

Check out our video in [English](#) and [Romanian](#)!



Photo credit: UNDP Moldova

The **Inclusion and Livelihoods Working Group** is one of several Working Groups of the country-level refugee coordination structure set up by the **Government of Moldova** and **UNHCR**, with participation of a wide array of public and private, central and local institutions and stakeholders in the context of the Ukraine refugee crisis. The Inclusion and Livelihoods Working Group is **chaired by the State Chancellery of the Republic of Moldova** and **UNDP**. The mandate of the WG is to enable a coordinated approach among partners working on livelihoods and inclusion topics, articulate and complement each other’s work and allow for **a coherent response in line with the mandate of each organization**. The work undertaken by the Inclusion and Livelihoods Working Group is a **prime example of the humanitarian – development nexus**: addressing crisis response needs, while considering longer-term resilience-building priorities that benefit refugees, returning migrants and host communities.

Updates on inclusion and livelihoods interventions by our members

- **UN Women** selected 9 women refugees to participate in the Women in Online Work (WoW) training program, which is part of the STEM project. WoW training programme was designed for women to acquire the necessary IT competencies and skills to access various international platforms for freelance services.
- [Through local NGOs, UNDP is supporting the Ukrainian refugees in the Soroca, Criuleni, Cimisliia districts, as well as in the Gagauzia ATU](#) to access free legal to obtain the refugee status, apply for identity documents, generate a personal numerical code for employment, or prepare packages of documents related to enrolment of children in schools and preschool institutions. This support is provided through the UNDP project “Strengthening Efficiency and Access to Justice in Moldova” (A2J Project), financed by **Sweden**.
- Through the [“Support to Confidence Building Measures Programme V”](#) financed by the **European Union**, UNDP is supporting the efforts of [Moldovan National Authorities](#), local authorities and communities on both side of the Nistru river to respond to the needs of the refugees fleeing into the Republic of Moldova in the context of the conflict in Ukraine. The activities aim to contribute to social cohesion and to ensure smooth temporary integration of refugees. Through this project, the Youth Association "Sansa" organized knowledge activities and socializing games for 31 children and 8 adult refugees from Varnița village. Psychological counseling was offered to 9 refugees, and 11 refugees were assisted with registration and the provision of necessary assistance, activities for children, medicine, etc. The Center for Innovative Educational and Social Programs from Tiraspol organized a series of activities for refugees on the left bank benefitting a total of 45 children aged 3 to 14 years.

Our first thematic discussion on private sector engagement in the refugee crisis response

The Inclusion & Livelihoods Working Group of the Refugee Coordination Forum for Moldova organized a thematic discussion on the Engagement of the private sector in the refugee crisis response: Working towards the socio-economic inclusion of refugees and resilience building of Moldova on 20th of April 2022.

The guest speaker, Ms Mariana Rufa, Executive Director of the [European Business Association](#) reflected on the opportunities that need to be seized in order for private sector entities to be further involved not only in the humanitarian response, but also in activities supporting longer-term resilience-building efforts in the current context.

Recommendations included the consideration of tax-related legal amendments to support private enterprises to employ refugees and offering financial support to private businesses that host refugees free of charge, such as agro-touristic facilities.

Contact us: The Inclusion and Livelihoods Working Group meets every Wednesday from 1 to 2 PM Chișinău time on Zoom: <https://undp.zoom.us/j/83411777112>. Meeting ID: 834 1177 7112. For any questions you may have regarding the Working Group, please reach out to Ms. Ioana Creitaru at ioana.creitaru@undp.org.

Members: State Chancellery | UN | UNDP | UNHCR | ODCHR | IOM | WFP | FAO | UNFPA | UN Women | UNICEF | WHO | ILO | ECHO | Swiss Cooperation Office | ANOFM | CALM | JICA | HELVETAS | ACTED Tdh Moldova | CLEAR Global | Johanniter | WeWorld | People in Need | Help Age | Faros Elpidas | Mediciens Sans Frontieres | Palladium | Caritas | Keystone | CPD