

INCLUSION AND LIVELIHOODS

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Refugees from Ukraine start from scratch on the Moldovan job market



Photo credit: UNDP Moldova

Tatyana is a refugee from Ukraine. When the war started, she and her 11-year-old son left Odessa and came to Balti, Moldova. On the advice of her hosts, Tatyana sought the services of the subdivision of the National Employment Agency (NEA), where she was offered several job vacancies. Although she is an accountant, she chose to work as a laboratory technician for the Transoil group of companies/J.S.C. Floarea Soarelui (Sun's Flower), a sunflower oil production plant.

"I wanted to start working as soon as possible. All I needed was to do something useful while spending my time here," notes Tatyana. At the factory, she made friends with Anna, a refugee fellow from Mykolaiv.

"It was a discovery to learn and see how many tests are carried out before oil arrives on our tables. Now we appreciate it even more", note both women say. They feel now familiar with the equipment and processes.

As of mid-June, almost 560 refugees have found jobs in the Moldovan labour market. Most refugees seek jobs in sectors similar to their work at home Ukraine. But, when their plans are turned upside down, they do not hesitate to learn new skills and gain professional experience. This is the case of Tatyana. Within two weeks of submitting her application she was hired by Floarea Soarelui.

Strategic partners UNDP and Switzerland support the NEA deliver job search services which include information, counselling, referral, and mediation services on the labour market. That support is also helping to raise awareness of the NEA's services and of job opportunities among the refugee community. Beginning in May, the Agency also began offering short-term professional training courses to refugees located in Chisinau and Balti.

Since the onset of the war, 139 employers across Moldova have hired more than 2,100 job to Ukrainian refugees in: IT, construction, engineering, tailoring, trading, healthcare and more.

Discover the full story [here](#).

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

- Until now, approximately **\$1.27 million** were allocated by **UNDP Moldova** and its partners – EU, Switzerland, Sweden, UK – to partially [cover the immediate needs of refugees](#) and host communities, as well as support socio-economic inclusion of people fleeing the war, by promoting employment opportunities, expanding their access to public services and ensuring social cohesion. This includes working with national and local authorities and communities in more than 75 host communities, from both banks of Nistru river, to ensure more than 21,000 Ukraine's refugees receive the provisions, accommodation, legal, and psychological support they need.
- **UNDP Moldova** and **Orange** together with the **Ministry of Internal Affairs/Bureau for Migration and Asylum** launched a **Refugee Mobility Dashboard**. A pending profiling of the refugee population through targeted SMS campaign is going to be organized during the first half of June 2022. The dashboard and analytical report were recently completed by using mobility data for estimating the number of refugees and their location in the country outside the Refugee Accommodation Centers. UNDP, **together with UNHCR**, is currently exploring using the application to conduct refugee profiling assessment based on sms-enabled surveys in order to deepen and complement existing refugee needs assessments.
- **UN Women Moldova** selected 12 women refugees to participate in the Women in Online Work (WoW) training program in Comrat, 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. The duration of the courses varies from 3-4 months. Graduates will be supported of receiving first job offers or other opportunities. Additionally, there are 3 women from Ukraine who applied to benefit from 6 months stay at iHUB. They are working remotely in IT or digital industries and are in need of office space." Other 5 women refugees joined communities' events to discuss on opportunities to start and develop their career in IT.
- **UNDP Moldova** recently released the report "[Moldova: Potential impacts of increased food and energy prices on poverty and vulnerability](#)". The brief aims to assess the potential impact of the war in Ukraine on household welfare in Moldova, regarding increased food and energy prices. According to the data, the share of the population living in poverty could reach between 21% and 32%, depending on the level of inflation, surpassing the poverty levels recorded in 2020 at the onset of the pandemic —14% of the population. These estimates highlight the need for policy action —e.g., by providing emergency relief, either targeted or universal, to smooth households' consumption and potentially mitigate the short-term poverty increases, and which can take the form of either one-off transfers or timebound schemes that could be extended for a few months.
- **UN Women Moldova** is currently supporting 10 communities from 6 districts with largest refugee populations in addressing the essential needs of refugees, primarily women and children, hosted in private families and Local Public Administration (LPA) adapted spaces. The essential livelihood support (in value of \$15,000) is channeled through CALM and is reaching 515 refugees, of which 218 are women (including 5 with disabilities and chronic diseases and 13 Roma women), 48 men (including 4 with disabilities and chronic diseases and 5 Roma), 136 girls and 113 boys.

Contact us

The Inclusion and Livelihoods Working Group meets every Wednesday from 1 to 2 PM Chişinău 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

Moldova State Chancellery, National Employment Agency of Moldova, Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova, United Nations, UNDP, UNHCR, OHCHR, IOM, WFP, FAO, UNFPA, UN Women, UNICEF, WHO, ILO, ECHO, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs Switzerland, HELVETAS, ACTED, Terre des Hommes, CLEAR Global, Johanniter, Plan International, WeWorld, People in Need, Help Age, Medecins Sans Frontieres, His Speed, Caritas Moldova, Translators without borders, CWS Global, ICRC Global, ADRA, Keystone Moldova, Centrul Parteneriat pentru Dezvoltare, Palladium, REACH