



Moldova: Situation overview

With the vast majority of refugees in Moldova being women and girls (69%), hence **their protection** is of utmost concern. A significant proportion of the refugee population consists of women-head of households, single women, adolescent girls, older women, who are at **heightened risk of gender-based violence (GBV)**. Urgent actions are required to prevent GBV and respond to its life-threatening consequences.

People fleeing from conflicts are at higher risk of conflict-related sexual violence, sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian actors, trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, as well as pre-existing and increased displacement related risks of intimate partner violence. Risks of GBV are exacerbated in the context of informal shelter, reception and transit facilities, refugee accommodation centres, private arrangements for accommodation and transportation from the border and movement to other countries.



MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS: JUNE

- Through the Refugee Coordination Forum, the GBV sub-working group has **strengthened GBV coordination** and currently includes 51 government agencies, NGOs, and UN agency partners. The sub-working group (SWG) national member organizations are at the forefront of the refugee response.
- **Since the beginning of the refugee influx, 1,058 frontline responders have been trained on prevention and response to GBV:** In June, the women-led organization Casa Mărioarei in partnership with UNHCR and Intersos, reached 284 participants through training activities in Chisinau, Ungheni, Calarasi, Căușeni and Făleşti. La Strada in partnership with UN Women conducted a four-day training with frontline staff of four community-based organizations.
- **GBV Safety Audit:** UNHCR, UNFPA and UNICEF with different humanitarian sectors and partners, jointly finalized 33 Safety Audit activities including safety walks, focus groups discussions and interviews. A total of 104 persons participated in the assessment, including 75 refugees. The safety audit findings will be key to enhance the efforts to prevent and respond to GBV, and mainstream GBV risk mitigation across all sectors.
- **Six GBV referral pathways** were developed/updated, covering all regions of Moldova and main border



Training conducted by Casa Mărioarei
Photo Credit: Casa Mărioarei

crossing points. The aim is to increase access to vital support for survivors, including lifesaving multi-sectoral response services.

- The SWG conducted an activity mapping workshop as part of the development process of the **GBV Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)**. A total of 25 persons participated. The SOPs will provide core guidance to all GBV response and prevention actors in the Moldova refugee response.
- **Access to emergency GBV medical care:** UNFPA distributed post-rape treatment kits for adults and children to 41 medical institutions and medical points at the refugee accommodation centres (RACs). Eighty medical staff were trained on the clinical management of rape cases and GBV principles.
- **Women and Girls Safe Space services:** UNFPA partners Artemida, the Youth Media Centre, and the Educational Centre Pro Didactica reached a total of 7,069 people through the UNFPA-supported Orange Safe Space for women and youth and the mobile teams. The activities included individual and group counselling, as well as information-sharing sessions.
- **PRIDE. Protection of LGBTIQ+ refugees:** The SWG joined and supported the pride activities. Materials were developed and distributed. Gender Doc.M in partnership with Plan International conducted mass media monitoring to tackle homo-, lesbo-, and transphobia messages.
- **Empowerment through information:** La Strada, in partnership with UN Women, developed and installed 125 information panels in accredited temporary placement centres for refugees, border-crossing points, social assistance departments, and other public locations.
- **Supporting women-led organizations:** On 23 June, the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) administered by UN Women launched six new partnerships in Moldova in response to the Ukraine crisis.



Activity mapping workshop for the development of Interagency SOPs.

Effective coordination and planning

- Planning and implementation of the Regional Response Plan and Gender-Based Violence sub-working strategy through joint workplan.
- Collaboration with local actors’ women-led organizations.
- Transfer co-leadership to a local organization.
- Joint assessments and trend analysis.
- Joint advocacy, communication materials and campaigns.

Access to lifesaving GBV prevention & multi-sectoral response programming



Activities of PRIDE month

Support, link, and complement existing national systems and capacities.

- Safe access to holistic case management, legal counselling, psychosocial support safety services and women and girls’ safe spaces (WGSS).
- Access to clinical management of rape.

- Response services are included in referral pathways and guided by SOPs.
- Community outreach and awareness raising.
- Capacity development and expansion.

Integration of GBV risk mitigation measures

- Regular coordination and guidance with all humanitarian sectors on GBV mainstreaming.
- Tools, resourcing, capacity development and sector specific planning on mainstreaming GBV risk mitigation

GAPS AND WAY FORWARD

- Continue to strengthen and build capacities of frontline and specialized actors and community outreach, awareness-raising, safe spaces and mobile services for refugees and host communities in at risk areas such as border, transit locations, and private and refugee accommodation as well as across the country.
- Support for national and local systems to scale up response and capacity, ensuring access to quality holistic survivor centred GBV services for refugees and host communities.
- Advocacy messages on Gender equality, prevention, and response to gender-based violence in a refugee context in Moldova.



Activities by UN Women

About GBV Sub-working Group: UNHCR in collaboration with Authorities and UNFPA leads the GBV response for refugees in Moldova. The GBV SWG has a strong network of 51 partners including representatives from the Department for Gender Equality of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, local organizations (including Life Without Violence Action Coalition representing 25 local women organizations and GBV providers), INGOs, UN agencies, and intergovernmental organizations.

Members: Law Centre of Advocates | La Strada | Women Law Centre | Women’s Initiatives | Life Without Violence Action Coalition representing 25 local women organizations and GBV service providers | Moldova for Peace | Homecare | Help Age | INTERSOS | Plan International | MSF | Oxfam | Caritas Germany | ACTED | APS-Action Aid | Mercy Corps | REACH | IsrAid | Catholic Relief Services | WeWorld | Medical Teams | IRC | Help Age | IMC | Project Hope | Church World Service | Voice Amplified | War Child Holland | French Red Cross | Emergency | HIAS | BR | UNHCR | UNFPA | UN Women | UNICEF | IOM | UNDP | UN AIDS | OHCHR, WHO | OSCE

SWG group meeting link: The GBV SWG meets every two weeks on Thursday at 2 pm. (English-Romanian-Russian interpretation)

Data portal - Moldova inter-agency response:
<https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10784>
 Please contact duquev@unhcr.org or alwahaidy@unfpa.org for more details.