

# LIVELIHOODS AND INCLUSION



Photo: WeWorld

## **A Ukrainian staying in Moldova, hired to help other refugees. Discover the story of Oksana**

*"When we meet among Ukrainian people, we do not greet each other but directly ask how people are doing. Ukrainians who fled the war and reached Moldova in the last few months need help because they have no strength left. If I had not met WeWorld staff, I would not have worked here, and this job has given me the mental strength to move forward. To understand that we are not alone in our pain, that other people understand and support us is a huge help, and it gives us hope for tomorrow, even if we don't know what the future holds. My family and I may decide to move to Canada soon, but that is a very large country, and most of all it is not our country".*

Oksana is a Ukrainian citizen from Odessa who fled the war and resettled to Moldova. She was hired by WeWorld as Communication and Admin Officer.

We met Oksana and her son during one of our distributions dedicated to Ukrainian children, when her son joined one of the activities organized to entertain children and no longer wanted to leave. Seeing him having fun was a huge relief for Oksana who took her time to meet and discuss with us. That is how Oksana met WeWorld Country Representative in Moldova and our International Programs Manager, and told them about her life in Odessa, her job as an event organizer, and her escape from Ukraine, leaving behind her home and everything she knew.

Since Oksana joined WeWorld, many other Ukrainians have asked her if there is anything they can do to help the organization in their efforts to support children and their families.

The Livelihoods and Inclusion 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 Livelihoods and Inclusion Working Group is chaired by the State Chancellery of the Republic of Moldova and UNDP. The mandate of the Working Group 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 Livelihoods and Inclusion 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 LIVELIHOODS AND INCLUSION INTERVENTIONS BY OUR MEMBERS

- **UNDP** has launched a [new project to enhance Ukrainian refugees' access to justice](#), in cooperation with the Institute for Penal Reforms, and financially supported by Sweden. The initiative will strengthen provision of paralegal services for refugees, deploy mobile teams offering legal, psychological, and social services, and strengthen refugees' access to legal information and related support services.
- Six local organizations received small grants provided by **People in Need's** public collection „SOS Ukraine” to support social cohesion in host communities. 1,315 children, among which 590 refugee children, participated in sports competitions, summer camps, and art creation activities. Also, 5 refugees attended vocational training to enhance their employment opportunities.
- 58 refugee children participated in summer camps organized by Hometown Associations and Local Governments, with support from **UNDP** and the Government of Switzerland. The camps contributed to social cohesion, bringing together refugee children from Ukraine, along with children from local and diaspora communities, in five different localities across the country.
- Through its IdeasBox project, **ACTED** facilitated sports, arts, and educational activities for approx. 40 children and young people every day, in two Refugee and Accommodation Centres. 52% of the participants were women and 48% men, highlighting the accessibility of the sessions and diversity of activities organized. The project is supported by **Bibliheques Sans Frontiers** and **Mazars Foundation**.
- Within a new EU-funded project focused on resilient civil society, **People in Need** are preparing an open call for 8 CSOs to receive operational and capacity building grants. Priority will be given to CSOs that promote the inclusion of refugees in host communities.
- **UN Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund** continues to [accept proposals](#) that support civil society organizations working to promote the socioeconomic recovery, leadership and political participation of forcibly displaced women and girls in crisis and humanitarian contexts. Interested local organizations can apply for programmatic and/or institutional funding by 16 September.
- **UNDP** in partnership with the Ministry of Health coordinated the [donation of three smart and portable health diagnostic devices](#) to the Refugee & Accommodation Centres in Cahul and Ungheni, and the Centre for Rehabilitation of Victims of Domestic Violence in Gagauzia region that provides shelter to people fleeing the war in Ukraine. The donation was provided through the [Slovak Challenge Fund](#).
- **IOM** has initiated several preparatory activities, including elaborating the Collaboration agreement with the National Employment Agency, collecting data in support of IOM livelihoods activities, and identifying potential community-based projects to be supported for enhancing social cohesion between refugees and host communities.

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## Contact us

The Livelihoods and Inclusion Working Group meets every other Wednesday from 13:00 to 14:30, Chişinău time on Zoom: <https://undp.zoom.us/j/83411777112>. For any questions you may have regarding the Working Group, please reach out to Teodora Zafiu at [teodora.zafiu@undp.org](mailto:teodora.zafiu@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, NRC, Translators without borders, CWS Global, ICRC Global, ADRA, Keystone Moldova, Centrul Parteneriat pentru Dezvoltare, Palladium, REACH, DRC, Moldova for Peace, National Congress of Ukrainians of Moldova.