



## Moldova: Situation overview

Since 24 February, over 600,000 people coming from Ukraine had entered the Republic of Moldova, of which nearly 90,000 have remained in the country. Of them, 61 per cent are women and girls, and women and children represent 81 per cent of the total refugee population in the country. 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 could be 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.

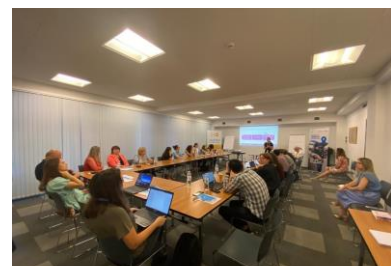


## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS: JULY AND AUGUST

- 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, 2,599 frontline responders have been trained on prevention and response to GBV:** In the reporting period, the women-led organization Casa Mărioarei in partnership with UNHCR and Intersos, reached 298 participants through training activities in Chisinau, Ungheni, Calarasi, Căușeni and Făleşti. In August, UNFPA organized a series of trainings targeting 143 specialists from all Orange Safe Spaces teams across the country. The National Coalition “Life without violence” in cooperation with CNFACEM, under the agreement with UNICEF, supported a Training of Trainers (ToT) of 14 professionals. This ToT intends to further reach at least 100 frontline workers.
- **Validation of GBV Safety Audit recommendations:** in July UNHCR, UNFPA and UNICEF following the finalization of 33 Safety Audit activities, with the participation of 104 persons (including 75 refugees), jointly conducted a workshop to share the findings and validate the recommendations of this

assessment. Over 40 colleagues representing eight sectors/WGs and 16 organizations participated in this session, where the principles of GBV risk mitigation mainstreaming and the safety audit was also presented.

- **The GBV SWG together with the Cash WG**, conducted a **rapid analysis on GBV risks** in cash and vouchers assistance. Approximately 30 colleagues from 13 organizations participated in this exercise. This analysis will be key for enhancing risk mitigation interventions in cash assistance and its report will be released in September.
- **Women and Girls Safe Space and response services:** UNFPA supported 17 Orange Safe Spaces (OSS) across Moldova and mobile teams to conduct outreach activities targeting the refugees and host communities. UNFPA partners Artemida, Home Care, Youth Media Centre, and Pro Didactica, reached 6,385 persons through the various activities of the OSS. UNFPA launched a Mobile Safe Space in the Southern Region of Moldova, in Cojușna, Anenii Noi, Staseni, Telensti, and Stefan Voda. UNDP established two mobile teams in Edinet and Causeni districts (rayons) delivering legal, social assistance and psychological services to both refugee and host communities. Under the GBV Unified Budget OSCE project “Ending GBV by adopting a comprehensive coordinated approach on both banks of the Dniester/Nistru” a total of 89 women and children from both banks of the river Nistru received psychosocial and legal counselling.
- **The GBV SWG members have continued raising awareness on GBV and available services** through community-based protection interventions. Casa Mărioarei, in partnership with UNHCR and Intersos, reached out over **7,000 people** who participated in peaceful coexistence activities and psychosocial activities. La Strada in coordination with BizGul, Consens and FCPS under the agreement with the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund and with the technical support of UN Women delivered information sessions to 400 refugees in different locations of the country.



Rapid analysis on GBV risks in CVA  
Photo Credit: UNHCR

- **Seven GBV referral pathways** were updated, covering all regions of Moldova and main border crossing points.

## BRIEF - KEY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES & WORK AREAS

### Effective coordination and planning

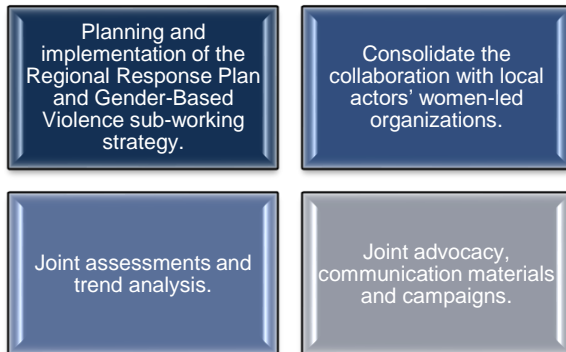


Photo Credit: UNFPA

### Access to lifesaving GBV prevention & multi-sectoral response programming

- 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

### WAY FORWARD

- Continue to strengthen and build capacities of frontline and specialized actors.
- Enhance the efforts on 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.
- Support the efforts of the government in the implementation of the Istanbul Convention.

**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 | BRF | 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>

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