UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Operations Update
17 July 2023

Valentina and her grandchildren waiting to enrol for cash assistance in the registration centre in Balti. ©UNHCR/E.Ciurca

Figures at a glance

106,317 individual refugees from Ukraine in Moldova

- **59%** females
- **46%** children
- **20%** elderly

875,113 arrivals from Ukraine since 24 February 2022

335,267 arrivals of Ukrainians from elsewhere since 24 February 2022

Key response figures

- **7,568** individuals granted temporary protection
- **117,468** refugees received cash assistance since 24 February 2022 (over **USD 103.2M** disbursed)
- **162,425** refugees supported with legal assistance since 24 February 2022
- **2,279** refugees now hosted in **53** refugee accommodation centres supported by UNHCR
- **5,040** refugees provided with psychosocial support and psychological first aid since 24 February 2022

We are expecting another baby boy, and we decided it was necessary to give birth to him in a safe place. Children are tired of falling asleep and waking up to the sounds of war and Moldova was our option

Valentina, a Ukrainian lady in her 60s who left her hometown in the Vinnitsa region and arrived in the Republic of Moldova last month with her pregnant daughter and three grandchildren. They have applied for UNHCR cash assistance and temporary protection in Moldova, and hope to enrol their children in school in the fall.

Recent highlights

- On July 6, UNHCR and UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Research, organized an online information session for all Refugee Response Green Line staff on the registration and enrolment of Ukrainian students in Moldovan schools and universities.
- On 7 July, UNHCR organized the first training on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Capacity Assessment of UN Implementing Partners in Moldova for 15 humanitarian workers. The aim of the training was to enhance the knowledge and skills on assessing the capacity of implementing partners to effectively integrate PSEA measures within their programs, identifying gaps and opportunities for improvement based on the UN Common Tool. The training was based on real case scenarios designed to provide a better understanding of how to use the UN Common Tool for assessment and to foster a clear understanding of minimum standards for assessing partners, as well as how to create efficient capacity building plans.
- On 10 July, UNHCR facilitated a session on Temporary Protection (TP) to seven staff from local organization Genderdoc-M, which works supporting LGBTIQ+ persons, including refugees and asylum seekers, to access services and assistance, and to locally integrate in the Republic of Moldova. Concerns were raised about the eligibility of third country nationals who are part of an LGBTIQ+ couple to temporary protection. Neither Moldova nor Ukraine recognize same-gender unions, which represents a challenge for them to receive TP. UNHCR's recommendation at the moment is that these couples consider other means to regularize their residence in Moldova and in this regard UNHCR and its partners will provide the necessary support.

Other activities during the reporting period

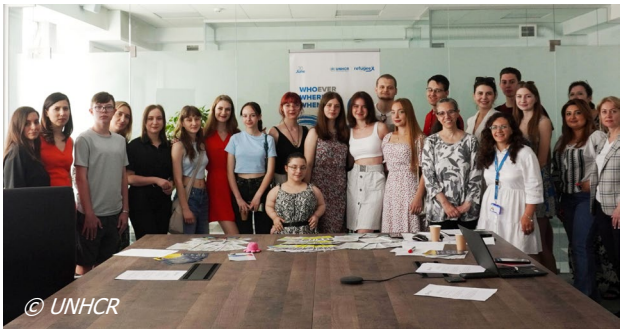
On 10 and 11 July, UNHCR held two Focus Group Discussions with around 30 refugees with disabilities and their caregivers in Balti and Cimislia. The discussions focused on identifying the barriers refugees with disabilities are facing when accessing humanitarian services, as well as the specific needs of refugees with disabilities.

On 13 July, UNHCR organized a workshop with 14 Ukrainian youth representatives from the Moldovan National Youth Council to provide more youth-friendly information on Temporary Protection. The need for such an activity was identified by the youth, who have also highlighted information needs on the topics of education and social integration. In the workshop, the youth had the opportunity to interview professionals from different relevant government and UN agencies, as well as NGOs. A follow up workshop will soon be organized for youth to create social media videos presenting the information they learned to their peers.

Also on 13 July, the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Sub-Working Group, co-chaired by UNHCR and UNFPA, carried out a workshop on Mainstreaming GBV Risk Mitigation to 15 persons from the health, Mental Health Psychosocial Support, education, accommodation and protection sectors. Representatives from the Government, NGOs, INGOs and UN Agencies were present. The practice-oriented workshop aimed to build the capacity of programme managers.

On 13 July, UNHCR provided support for the organization of the territorial meeting of the Government Commission for the Coordination of Migration and Asylum activities in Balti, with the participation of the Local Coordination Forum. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Jana Costachi, the State Secretary of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the President of the Commission, and focused on addressing field-level issues related to Temporary Protection, Information Campaign on rights and services, Inclusion and Livelihoods, as well as the enrolment of Ukrainian refugees in Moldovan schools. The event served as an opportunity for refugees, non-governmental organizations, international non-governmental organizations, and the Roma community to express their concerns and propose potential solutions directly to the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The first session on PSEA Capacity Assessment of UN Implementing Partners in Moldova. 7 July 2023, Chisinau.



The 14 Ukrainian youth representatives from the Moldovan National Youth Council at the temporary protection workshop organized by UNHCR last week.

UNHCR and its implementing partner Laolalta providing information on Temporary Protection to around 17 refugees in Chisinau on 14 July.

UNHCR operates in the Republic of Moldova directly and through its partners:

UNHCR is grateful for support from the top government, individual and private sector donors to the Moldova operation:

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For more information, please visit the Operational Data Portal for Moldova or the Global Focus page for the Ukraine Situation.