UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency | Republic of Moldova

Operations Update
October 2023

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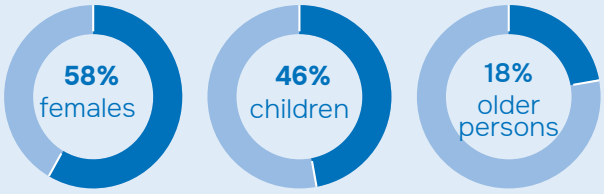
On 27 October, UNHCR, in collaboration with the Creative Industries Association (COR) of Moldova, launched the One Minute Festival, a short-film contest centred on the theme "On the Move."
Throughout the coming weeks, the contest will offer a series of filmmaking workshops, in addition to information on displacement. The contest encourages both amateur and professional filmmakers to produce and share one-minute films that convey human stories related to the theme of movement. Those interested can register here. The top three filmmakers will be recognized for their creativity at an awards ceremony in February 2024 and all submitted films will be part of the festival. The winners will receive professional cameras as prizes.

Population figures

113,000 refugees from Ukraine in Moldova:



About **1.4 M arrivals** since 24 February 2022

Legal status in the country

Around 21,300 refugees have been granted Temporary Protection

Nearly 7,000 citizens of Ukraine have been granted resident permits either permanent or temporary

Around 400 refugees are asylum-seekers or have been granted refugee status or humanitarian protection

120,500
refugees received cash assistance since February 2022 (over USD 114.8M disbursed)

173,000
refugees supported with legal assistance since 24 February 2022 (as of 30 September)

2,310
refugees hosted in 46 refugee accommodation centres supported by UNHCR

Highlights of the month

Border monitoring

UNHCR and its partners identified a growing number of refugees from Ukraine at the Palanca border crossing as having been fined MDL 600 for exceeding the legally permitted 90-day stay in Moldova, for those who hadn't applied for TP or attained another form of legal status (such as a residence permit, an application for asylum, refugee status, or stateless status). UNHCR continues to closely monitor the situation, and partners are providing counseling to individuals without TP or other forms of legal status.

Mapping needs and intentions of Roma refugees

On 3 October, UNHCR published an analysis and an interactive dashboard with a mapping of the Roma refugees from Ukraine in Moldova. The mapping exercise aimed to gather comprehensive data on the location of Roma refugees throughout the country, as well as basic information regarding their intentions and needs. Nearly 1,900 Roma refugees mentioned financial assistance, items such as clothes, shoes, and

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The opening of the Community Service Centre (CSC) in Donduşeni attended by local authorities, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNICEF and the Ambassador of Japan Yamada Yoichiro. The Centre was rehabilitated with UNHCR support and is part of the CSC network supported by UNHCR in Moldova.

hygiene products, access to healthcare services and education as a major need.

"Break the silence" raising awareness on gender-based violence (GBV) related risks

The campaign was carried out between November 2022 and September 2023 within the framework of the GBV Sub-Working Group, and in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. It had the participation of some 1,500 refugee and host community members in local events which took place in Chisinau, in south and north of Moldova. The campaign also included offline and online materials, including radio spots aiming at mitigating risks related to GBV in job-seeking and accommodation, and informing people about GBV services available throughout Moldova.

Did you know that 8% of the Local Civil Society Organizations were established around the time that the Ukraine situation erupted?

To read more, consult the report of the Local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Mapping in Moldova published by UNHCR and UN Women. The report is based on a survey conducted with almost 200 CSOs in Moldova in the first quarter of the 2023 and seeks to capture details of the profiles and needs of CSOs, their level of engagement in coordination spaces and their organizational capacity. It also presents key findings and recommendations based on the results of interviews and focus group discussions with 58 CSO representatives and front-line professionals.

Refugee Coordination Forum

On 4 October, 104 staff from UN agencies, INGOs, local NGOs, and government officials attended the Refugee Response Plan 2024 Consultation for the Protection Sector, organized by UNHCR. The workshop resulted in a defining strategic objectives, activities, and indicators for the Protection Sector for 2024.

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Refugee from Ukraine benefitting from free eye glasses given away by in Ungheni by the free eye clinic in partnership with OneSight Luxottica and with UNHCR support.

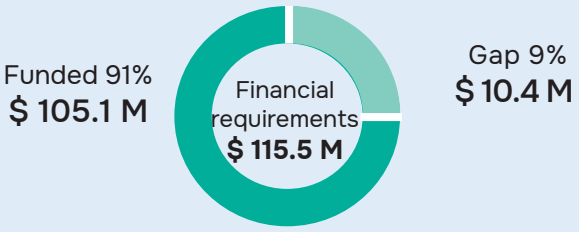
This is in addition, to consultations with other sectors, authorities at national and local level, donors, private sector, and the community at large.

Also, on 16 October, UNHCR published the local consultations report which highlights the needs, challenges, and solutions identified by around 150 local actors engaged in a series of nine workshops in Cahul, Comrat, Bălți, Căușeni, Chișinău, Orhei, Dondușeni and Ungheni. The conclusions of the exercise will inform sectors and will contribute to the development of the 2024 Refugee Response Plan.

> **People who come to lessons come here as if they were at home. They have made friends, they communicate with each other and so the Romanian language, a completely new language for them, is easier to learn. Someone is motivated by the desire to integrate, someone wants to know at which stop to get off public transport, and someone was driven by everyday needs.**
>
> Tatiana, refugee from Ukraine attending Romanian classes

Financial information

(October 2023)



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

Our work would not be possible without UNHCR's implementing partners.

UNHCR Moldova is also thankful for the important support of other UN agencies, Moldovan authorities at all levels, the private sector and civil society organizations.