

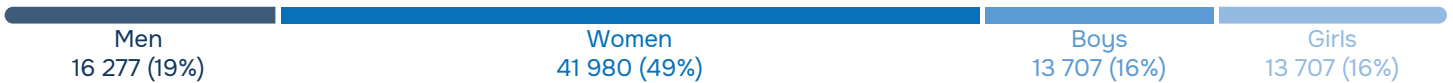
# Inter-agency operational update

## REFUGEE COORDINATION FORUM | MOLDOVA

**122 391** Ukrainian refugees in Moldova



**85 673** people reached by RRP in Q2



**1 124 474** Arrivals from Ukraine since February 2022

**9 806** Third-Country Nationals from Ukraine in Moldova

**56 323** Temporary Protection Holders

## Current funding level

**303M** total pledged

**89.1M (13%\*)** funds received \*

\* As reported in the Refugee Funding Tracker. This does not include a carry-over the last year of 11M USD. The actual funding level is higher, but currently is not reflected.

Number of refugees receiving MPCA

**56 701**

Number of hosting family members receiving MPCA

**9 666**

	Received	Pledged
Basic needs (includes In-kind, Shelter, Wash, Food Security, Multi-purpose Cash)	\$ 49.2M	\$ 163.8M
Education	\$ 4M	\$ 17.19M
Protection (Including GBV & CP)	\$ 19.5M	\$ 111.83M
Health & Nutrition (includes MHPSS)	\$ 7.8M	\$ 25.12M
Livelihood & Socio-economic Inclusion	\$ 5.8M	\$ 35.62M
Not yet allocated / Others	\$ 2.6M	



## Support to the Government

**399** trained government officials



## Support to Host Community

\*Ongoing efforts throughout the year

**27 639** people from the host community reached

**120** support to community infrastructure

**86** school  
**34** healthcare entities

## People Reached by Sector



Basic Needs  
**84 021**



Education  
**19 227**



Protection  
**50 477**



Food Security  
**24 775**



Health & Nutrition  
**33 231**



Child protection  
**13 149**



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene - WASH  
**8 955**



Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion  
**5 519**



Gender-based violence (GBV)  
**17 664**

# National Context

In the second quarter of 2024, Refugee Response Plan (RRP) partners have focused on enhancing refugees' access to services and collaborating closely with government institutions to ensure their inclusion at all levels. RRP Working Groups and Task Forces have actively worked to align their interventions with government initiatives, mainstream protection standards, and increase refugee participation in decision-making processes affecting their integration notably, the Moldovan government considered feedback from refugees, provided through NGOs, regarding the extension of Temporary Protection (TP) until March 2025.

Efforts to include and make minorities visible have been crucial in reducing vulnerability risks and ensuring their full enjoyment of rights, access to services, and integration opportunities. In this context, RRP partners organized a Regional Dialogue on the Protection and Inclusion of Roma Refugees and Host Communities in Chişinău. This platform enabled Roma refugees, host community members, CSOs, RRP partners, and authorities to share experiences and address barriers to inclusion while protecting their cultural identity during the integration process.

Collaboration with the government has proven to be instrumental during this period, with partners focusing on building capacity in public institutions from across all sectors and supporting government initiatives to guarantee refugee's protection. As part of this, the Basic Needs Working Group (BN WG) has worked closely with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP) to ensure that the consolidation process of Refugee Accommodation Centers (RAC) is smooth and does not leave persons at risk behind.

The Education Working Group (EWG) has collaborated with the Ministry of Education and Research (MER) to draft a roadmap for integrating refugee children into the formal education system. By June 2024, 2,325 Ukrainian children were enrolled in Moldovan schools, including 727 in early education. Moreover, Child Protection (CP) partners provided training for 149 newly hired government CP specialists and 77 Border Police staff.

Access to healthcare and social services remains insufficient, partly due to a lack of human resources and funding. Despite these challenges, the coordinated efforts of RRP partners and the Moldovan government continue to provide safe spaces for Ukrainian refugees to benefit from international protection.

# Protection

## WG Co-Chairs

Ombudsman Office and UNHCR

## Partners reporting activities during Q2

### Direct Implementation and Mandating Agencies:

- AICS
- Acted
- ADRA Moldova
- Children's Emergency Relief International
- Church World Service
- Danish Refugee Council
- Dorcas
- ECHO

- HEKS/EPER
- HelpAge International
- Helvetas
- International Organization for Migration
- KeyStone Moldova
- Norwegian Refugee Council
- Peace Winds Japan
- People In Need
- United Nations Children's Fund
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- World Food Programme

## Implementing Partners:

- ADRA Moldova
- AO Biaz Gul
- AO Pas cu Pas regiunea Sud
- AO Programul Educațional Pas cu Pas
- Asociația pentru Drepturile Omului Lex XXI
- Casa Marioarei
- Center Resonance
- Centrul Național de Formare, Asistență, Consiliere și Educație din Moldova
- Charity Centre for Refugees
- Child and Family Empowerment Association “AVE Copiii”
- Child Community Family
- Communitas
- Diaconia
- Dorcas
- Fundația Crestina Titus
- HelpAge International
- INTERSOS
- KeyStone Moldova
- la Asociația Obsteasca Interaction
- Laolalta
- National Congress of Ukrainians in Moldova
- Non-Profit Partnership Center for Social and Legal Innovations “Women’s Initiatives”
- Partnership for Every Child
- People In Need
- Zdorovii Gorod

## Achievements

The Protection Working Group (PWG) has made progress in advancing the refugee response and supporting host communities in Moldova during the second quarter of 2024, with partners facilitating refugees’ access to services, including healthcare, education, and shelter, thus improving the quality of life for refugees, and supporting their integration into local communities. During the reporting period, the PWG advanced on gender inclusion by organizing training sessions and awareness programs aimed at promoting gender equality and raising awareness about the rights of women and girls, thus contributing to developing an inclusive environment for all community members. In Donduseni, a workshop involving local actors from Donduseni, Edinet, and Otaci, led to the

elaboration of a local referral pathway, enhancing the coordination and the capacity of response among organizations in the region. In this period, the PWG also addressed significant community concerns, including barriers to accessing banking services for refugees and advocating for the extension of the validity period for Ukrainian car number plates in Moldova. The PWG provided protection assistance to over **2,000** people with specific needs, with over **2,500** individuals benefiting from awareness-raising interventions, with psychosocial support activities engaging nearly **3,350** participants, and protection-related training and capacity-building activities reaching over **1,000** individuals.

## Challenges and Gaps

The recent update to the Ukrainian conscription legislation, effective since May, led to a surge in asylum claims in Moldova, particularly from men aged **25-26** crossing irregularly from Ukraine, with asylum claims at Palanca and Otaci quadrupling in ten weeks. As a result, the processing

time for asylum claims has also increased, raising accommodation challenges. Moreover, restrictions on Ukrainian consular services have hindered passport renewals, leading to irregular entries into Romania and extended stays in Moldova, while affecting access to services.

## Government Strengthening

PWG partners remain dedicated to enhancing government capacities through continuous collaboration and training. Local public administrations were strengthened through ongoing local referral pathway workshops, and staff from the National Employment Agency received training on le-

gal stay, employment laws, and procedures. Additionally, territorial social workers from the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection in the North, Centre, and South of Moldova were trained on forced migration and international refugee law.

## Refugee Participation and Social Cohesion

In Q2, the PWG prioritized meaningful participation of refugees in decision-making and planning. Over **9,950** individuals engaged in activities promoting social cohesion between refugees and host communities across various regions. Additionally, **22** community-led projects and organizations were supported. In April, the PWG, in collaboration with the Roma Task Force, the Office for Political Services of the Interethnic Relations under the Ministry of Education and Research (MER), and the Agency

for Interethnic Relations (AIR), hosted a Regional Dialogue on the Protection and Inclusion of Ethnic Roma Refugees and Host Communities. The event, attended by over **100** participants, focused on enhancing the inclusion of Roma refugees and local ethnic Roma by addressing barriers to rights and services, promoting cultural sensitivity, and sharing best practices from actors across the region, including Ukraine, Czech Republic, Romania, Germany, Hungary, and Moldova.

# Child-Protection

## SWG Co-Chairs

UNICEF and UNHCR

## Partners reporting activities during Q2

### Direct Implementation and Mandating Agencies:

- ADRA Moldova
- Catholic Relief Services
- Children's Emergency Relief International
- Church World Service
- Lumos Foundation
- Plan International Moldova
- Terre des hommes Moldova
- United Nations Children's Fund
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- United Nations Population Fund
- World Vision International

### Implementing Partners:

- AO Artemida
- AO Programul Educațional Pas cu Pas
- Center Resonance
- Centrul National de Prevenire a Abuzului față de Copii
- Centrul National pentru Educatie Timpurie și Informare a Familiei
- Charity Centre for Refugees
- Child and Family Empowerment Association "AVE Copiii"
- Child Community Family
- Communitas
- Diaconia
- Fundația Crestina Titus
- Health for Youth Association
- KeyStone Moldova
- Mother and Child Institution
- National Congress of Ukrainians in Moldova
- Partnership for Every Child

## Achievements

In Q2, the Child Protection Sub-Working Group (CP SWG) met with the head of the Child Protection Unit from the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, who discussed the impact of the ongoing RESTART/Care reform and the EU accession process on the child protection system. The Ministry highlighted the need for continued support in implementing the National Programme for Child Protection (2022-2026), including the development of an action plan and securing funding to address EU recommendations. Child-friendly spaces remained prioritized, with **7,471** children (**3,747** girls) and **2,228** caregivers (**2,035** women) receiving child protection services at Blue Dots and other child-friendly spaces. The CP SWG updated the mapping

of these spaces and mobile teams, identifying at least **18** organizations providing services such as recreational activities, parenting support, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), and identification and referral of children at risk. A total of **5,066** refugee children and their caregivers (**61%** women and girls) were referred to and received appropriate child protection services. During this period, **76** unaccompanied and separated children were identified and assisted, including **52** girls and **5** children with disabilities. To support summer camp coordination, the CP SWG collaborated with the Education Working Group to design and distribute flyers detailing summer activities for children.

## Challenges and Gaps

Since the end of the state of emergency in late 2023, the referral process for unaccompanied and separated children from the Border Police to the Guardianship Authority has become less systematic. In response, CP SWG co-chairs met with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP) and the Border Police to understand the chal-

lenges and work towards a solution to restore systematic referrals. Additionally, there remains a need to enhance case management for children victims of violence, including sexual violence, through capacity building for social workers.

## Government Strengthening

Child protection partners trained **149** newly hired child protection specialists from the Territorial Agency for Social Assistance and Territorial Structure for Social Assistance during two weeklong, in-person sessions. Additional

online sessions are scheduled for the summer, with more in-person training planned for the autumn. Additionally, **77** Border Police staff received training on child protection.

## Support to Civil Society

The CP SWG, in collaboration with the Protection Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) network, with support from Plan International, conducted two training ses-

sions on Child Friendly Feedback Mechanisms for CSOs. Additionally, follow up sessions on trauma-informed care were offered to CP SWG members.



### Spotlight Story

During World Refugee Day 2024, Moldova's Prime Minister, Dorin Recean, attended an event at a child-friendly space hosted by UNHCR's child protection partner, AVE Copiii, in Stefan Voda. The event brought together parents and children from both refugee and host communities. Refugee participants appreciated the opportunity to connect with other families, feeling more integrated into the community. Children interacted with the Prime Minister, quizzing him on geography, while parents expressed their gratitude for the ongoing support provided to refugee families by Moldovan authorities.

# Basic Needs

## Co-Chairs

UNHCR/Acted and MLSP

## Partners reporting activities during Q2

### Direct Implementation and Mandating Agencies:

- Acted
- Action Against Hunger (Action Contre la Faim)
- ADRA Moldova
- Catholic Relief Services
- Children's Emergency Relief International
- Church World Service
- Communitas
- CONCORDIA Moldova
- Dorcas
- HelpAge International
- Helvetas
- International Organization for Migration
- Jugend Eine Welt
- Lumos Foundation
- Norwegian Refugee Council
- People In Need
- Terre des hommes Moldova
- United Nations Children's Fund
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- WeWorld
- World Food Programme
- World Vision International

### Implementing Partners:

- ACT Ormax
- Action Against Hunger (Action Contre la Faim)
- Charity Centre for Refugees
- Child and Family Empowerment Association "AVE Copiii"
- CONCORDIA Moldova
- Danish Refugee Council
- Diaconia
- Dorcas
- FoodBank
- Fundația Crestina Titus
- HelpAge International
- KeyStone Moldova
- Laolalta
- Partnership for Every Child
- People In Need
- Speranța Terrei
- Zdorovii Gorod

## Achievements

The Basic Needs Working Group (BNWG) provided support to around **13,800** refugees and host community members through various activities, including the provision of food, information, and transportation at the Palanca and Otaci border reception centres. Partners supporting food distribution reached **1,500** people with snacks and hot meals at the borders. The BNWG also supported **35** RACs accommodating **1,831** people, by improving living conditions, providing food and non-food items, and enhancing RAC

staff capacities through training and knowledge-sharing activities. In June, a three-day training was organized for RAC managers and social assistance staff, focusing on site management and protection awareness. In collaboration with the Protection Working Group, the BNWG supported MLSP in the RAC consolidation process, which resulted in the closure of five RACs, with partners assisting residents in finding alternative accommodations. Additionally, **455** households received rental assistance.

## Challenges and Gaps

A key challenge was relocating vulnerable individuals to new accommodation centres amid reduced available space. BNWG has been working closely with the MLSP to explore affordable accommodation solutions for those unable to access rental assistance. The MLSP also requested support from the BNWG and PWG to conduct a RAC assessment to update the list of centers to be closed in the short, mid, and long term, aiming to avoid unplanned

adjustments during consolidation. Another challenge is the anticipated impact of discontinuation of cash support on those who may struggle to pay rent after the rental assistance programme concludes. Under this scenario, the BNWG identified the need to establish criteria for distributing NFIs to support vulnerable populations and facilitate distribution in host communities.

## Government Strengthening

The BNWG supported the implementation of various initiatives, including technical assistance, training programs, and knowledge-sharing activities. In June, 16 RAC managers were trained in community engagement, operational procedures for site management, and staff well-being. Also, the Working Group supported the coordination and revision of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), the Vulnerability Assessment Tool, and key documents for im-

plementing the RACs consolidation process. Furthermore, WG members contributed to the installation of renewable energy sources in RACs, which will benefit the government in the long term by reducing energy consumption. With the introduction of energy-efficient kitchen equipment, the Food Security sub-WG continues its efforts to transition RACS from a catering model to onsite cooking, thus improving efficiency in these centres.

## Support to Civil Society

In this quarter, the BNWG actively supported civil society by fostering partnerships with local organizations. These collaborations are vital for the effective implementation of BNWG programs including the monitoring of hot meal distribution in RACs and at borders. By working closely with local CSOs, the Working Group significantly strengthened their operational capacities. In addition, the BNWG also

supported civil society through initiatives like the cash-for-work program in RACs. This program provided essential services to beneficiaries and contributed to empowering local organizations and government entities, helping to fill critical service delivery gaps and improve overall support for vulnerable populations.

## Refugee Participation and Social Cohesion

BNWG partners have organized various initiatives to promote refugee inclusion and social cohesion. In Donduseni, HelpAge implemented a handicraft masterclass where refugees and locals participated in painting and crafting lessons, promoting social cohesion and psychosocial well-being of participants. Another event organized by

HelpAge took place during Easter, where refugees and locals from various centers joined a trip to visit monasteries. These initiatives fostered interpersonal relationships to keep promoting communication and cultural exchange between local population and refugees, facilitating smoother interactions between all community members.



### Spotlight Story

Elena, 67, a refugee from Zaporizhia, Ukraine, maintained hope despite the war's devastation. A passionate gardener and former engineer, she had a garden with 130 flower varieties, including rare species, that made her proud. When the war erupted Elena decided to stay with her husband, who repaired their home after each bombing, until it was too dangerous to stay. A bomb exploding nearby forced her to flee. Elena, her children, and grandchildren now live in a RAC. Grateful for the favourable conditions in temporary accommodation, she is creating a new garden in the centre, which for her symbolizes resilience amidst chaos. Her husband remains in Zaporizhia, still repairing their home.

# Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

## SWG Co-Chairs

UNHCR and UNFPA

## Partners reporting activities during Q2

### Direct Implementation and Mandating Agencies:

- ECHO
- International Organization for Migration
- United Nations Children’s Fund
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- United Nations Population Fund

### Implementing Partners:

- AO Artemida
- AO Biaz Gul
- Casa Marioarei
- Charity Centre for Refugees
- Health for Youth Association
- HelpAge International
- IFIS
- INTERSOS
- Ia Asociatia Obsteasca Interaction
- Non-Profit Partnership Center for Social and Legal Innovations “Women’s Initiatives”
- Pro Didactica

## Achievements

The Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Sub-Sector provided technical guidance on mitigating GBV risks, including a workshop with participants from the accommodation, protection, child protection, education, and health sectors. In terms of capacity building, **685** people, including humanitarian response actors, government personnel, and case workers, were trained on GBV and PSEA. Following a GBV Safety Audit, the findings were presented across all sectors, leading to the development of tipsheets to address identified risks. A GBV Safety Walk training was also conducted to help sectors identify risks during programme implementation. In collaboration with the Child Protection Sub-Sector and the Roma Task Force, efforts

are underway to improve access to sexual and reproductive health information for Roma adolescents, as one of the approaches to address the issue of child marriage. In terms of services, **4,064** people received mental health and psychosocial support, including health consultations, and **120** received legal aid. Additionally, **385** people received cash assistance as part of the GBV response, and up to **2,500** dignity kits were distributed to survivors or persons at risk of GBV, and **865** individuals were referred to other services. Overall, more than **17,000** people participated in GBV prevention activities, and **3,446** were reached with GBV risk mitigation information.

## Challenges and Gaps

There is a need to scale up and strengthen entry points for GBV disclosures, including protection and survivor-centred counseling and support groups. Mandatory reporting of GBV remains a barrier to accessing services, including safe shelters. It is crucial to reinforce and standardize survivor-centred procedures for referring survivors, including Roma women, to life-saving services, while minimizing revictimization. Consistent capacity building on safe

disclosure of GBV for various actors remains a priority, particularly for persons with disabilities and other at-risk groups. There is an urgent need to expand GBV case management services across Moldova to ensure proper support and referrals for survivors. Additionally, the lack of an integrated information and case management system hampers efficient referrals and case follow-up.



## Government Strengthening

The GBV Sub-Sector has been supporting the government's efforts to address refugee needs and integrate them into the national GBV system. As the government leads the consolidation of RACs, the GBV Sub-Sector is helping to strengthen coordination for the safe referral of GBV disclosures through targeted capacity-building initiatives. In collaboration with the MLSP, the GBV Sub-Sector has contributed to the Social Assistance Reform by

developing and implementing a GBV Case Management initiative, which includes the creation of SOPs and training programmes, ensuring that refugee needs are fully integrated into this process. Additionally, the GBV Sub-Sector has been supporting Women Led Organizations in developing the capacity of local public authorities to effectively address GBV.

## Support to Civil Society

In the second quarter, the GBV Sub-Sector continued to support and engage with civil society organizations through capacity-building initiatives and training while strengthening coordination with and participation of Women-Led Organizations in the GBV Sub-Working Group. During this period, CSOs were actively involved in consultations for developing the GBV Case Management

SOPs, which include specific considerations for groups at disproportionate risk of GBV. Additionally, local organizations conducted GBV studies in collaboration with local feminist networks, contributing valuable insights to support government and CSO efforts in defining programmatic priorities and enhancing advocacy.

## Refugee Participation and Social Cohesion

Consultations between GBV sub-sector partners, refugees, and host communities ensured that activities were relevant and tailored to their needs, both for group activities and individual services. GBV prevention and women's empowerment initiatives were conducted at Community Service Centres across several locations in Moldova, fostering peaceful coexistence and providing safe spaces

for disclosures. Joint activities involving refugee and host community women resulted in the establishment of local support networks. Partners will continue to support these initiatives, focusing on their continuity, sustainability, and the development of additional safe spaces for women and girls.

### Spotlight Story

Bogdana\* fled the war in Ukraine with her husband and in laws, to seek refuge in Moldova. However, her peace was short-lived when her husband evicted her and their child from their home during winter. Despite the dire situation, Bogdana knew where to seek help. She turned to a Community Services Centre,

where she received cash assistance as part of a broader GBV case management programme, that provided comprehensive support, enabling Bogdana to regain control of her life. With the assistance received she was able to move to Chisinau where she received medical treatment and help in finding housing.

\*To protect her identity, her name has been changed.

# Education

## WG Co-Chairs

Ministry of Education Culture and Research, UNICEF and UNHCR

## Partners reporting activities during Q2

### Direct Implementation and Mandating Agencies:

- Catholic Relief Services
- ChildFund Deutschland e.V.
- Church World Service
- Dorcas
- Football Federation of the Republic of Moldova
- Lumos Foundation
- Norwegian Refugee Council
- People In Need
- PLAN International
- Terre des hommes Moldova
- United Nations Children's Fund
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- WeWorld
- World Vision International

### Implementing Partners:

- Amici Dei Bambini Moldova
- AO Asociația pentru Dezvoltarea Tehnologiilor Informaționale EDUCAT
- AO Programul Educațional Pas cu Pas
- Asociația pentru Drepturile Omului Lex XXI
- Centrul National pentru Educație Timpurie și Informare a Familiei
- Charity Centre for Refugees
- Child and Family Empowerment Association "AVE Copiii"
- Child Community Family
- Diaconia
- Dorcas
- Football Federation of the Republic of Moldova
- Humanitarian Aid Center of the Jewish Community of Moldova
- National Congress of Ukrainians in Moldova
- Norwegian Refugee Council
- Partnership for Every Child
- People In Need
- The Moldovan Association of ICT Companies

## Achievements

In the second quarter of 2024, the Education Working Group (EWG) focused on improving the enrolment and attendance of refugee children in Moldovan schools. Out of **2,325** children enrolled in school, **727** were enrolled in Early Childhood Education (ECE), while **1,598** were in primary and secondary schools. Female learners comprised **50.6%** of the enrolment, with male learners representing the **49.4%**. To address language challenges, sector partners offered Romanian language classes across various locations, with the EWG mapping these classes. Additionally, the EWG conducted awareness campaigns with Roma refugee parents to highlight the benefits of education and identify barriers to school enrolment. Meetings were held

with school management in areas with significant numbers of Roma refugee children, stressing the importance of ensuring that all children have access to education. Some barriers, such as vaccination requirements, have been partially resolved, with efforts ongoing to address additional challenges. In June, MER, in collaboration with Ukraine's Ministry of Education and Science, facilitated **190** Ukrainian students to take the Ukrainian National test at the Technical University of Moldova. During the Education Week in April, the sector also hosted a session on Inclusive Education, where refugee mothers, and representatives from local and international organizations shared best practices and challenges.

## Challenges and Gaps

Despite efforts, school enrolment for Ukrainian children only increased slightly in Q2. Many Ukrainian children are believed to continue studying online, though there is no monitoring mechanism to track their attendance or performance. Language barriers remain a significant concern for parents, contributing to their reluctance to enrol children in local schools. Additionally, concerns about bullying and discrimination, particularly among Roma children, persist. There is a pressing need for catch-up education programs due to late enrollments and high dropout rates

## Government Strengthening

The EWG has provided support to the MER in addressing educational challenges for Ukrainian children in Moldova. The sector co-chairs collaborated with MER to draft the Education Inclusion Roadmap and Action Plan – a strategic document aimed at ensuring the enrollment of all Ukrainian children in Moldovan schools. Sector members

## Support to Civil Society

The EWG actively engaged with civil society organizations, including those led by Ukrainians, to support a variety of educational interventions including facilitating

## Refugee Participation and Social Cohesion

With the support of sector partners in Glodeni, the director of a local school adjacent to the RAC, organized an open day event, inviting refugee parents and children from the RAC to a learning tour of the institution, encouraging them to enrol for the upcoming school year. Refugee children interacted with their Moldovan peers, while parents engaged in discussions with schoolteachers. This initia-

in the community. Increased parental engagement could help mitigate these challenges. Funding in the education sector remains a significant challenge, with ongoing needs for human resources and infrastructure. Specific support for refugee children, such as additional school psychologists, intensive Romanian language instruction in Romanian-medium schools, and non-formal catch-up programs for older children with educational gaps, is urgently needed.

are currently reviewing the draft, which will then be costed and presented to donors for funding. In Chisinau, sector partners have been instrumental in mobilizing funds to support MER and the Chisinau Municipality's initiative to open Ukrainian-language classes at Taras Shevchenko Gymnasium by September 2024.

school enrolment, providing Romanian language support, developing non-formal education programmes, and offering teacher training.

tive, supported by the EWG, aimed to build trust and ease the transition for refugee families into the local education system. Additionally, MER organized a Q&A session for Ukrainian parents whose children are enrolled in a Russian-language school in Chisinau. The session addressed parents' questions and concerns and discussed strategies to encourage more families to enrol their children.



### Spotlight Story

On February 24, 2022, Raisa and her 14-year-old son left behind loved ones, friends, and cherished memories as they fled Ukraine. Guided by the kindness of strangers, they traveled by train until they reached the Otaci border customs point, where their journey found a brief respite. Upon learning about the Play and Learning Hubs for refugee children, Raisa pursued an opportunity to join the staff, determined to contribute her skills and experiences. Slowly, she and her son began rebuilding their lives in Moldova. Her son enrolled in a school in Chisinau and spent time at the “Green Gate” center, where a colleague of Raisa's volunteered to teach him to play the guitar. Since the onset of the war, UNICEF, in collaboration with the Government of Moldova, non-governmental partners like Step by Step, and with financial support from the LEGO Foundation, has established 36 Play and Learning Hubs across Moldova, providing vital support to refugee children and families.

# Health and Nutrition

## WG Co-Chairs

Ministry of Health and WHO

## Partners reporting activities during Q2

### Direct Implementation and Mandating Agencies:

- Action Against Hunger (Action contre la Faim)
- Church World Service
- Danish Refugee Council
- Doctors with Africa CUAMM
- International Organization for Migration
- INTERSOS
- United Nations Children's Fund
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- United Nations Population Fund
- World Health

### Implementing Partners:

- Action Against Hunger (Action Contre la Faim)
- Casa Marioarei
- Center for Health Policies and Strategies
- Child Community Family
- Compania Nationala de Asigurari in Medicina
- Diaconia
- Health for Youth Association
- International Organization for Migration
- INTERSOS
- KeyStone Moldova
- Laolalta
- Mother and Child Institution
- People In Need
- Speranța Terrei
- United Nations Children's Fund
- Uniunea pentru Echitate si Sanatate

## Achievements

The Health and Nutrition Working Group (HN WG) has remained committed to integrating refugees into the national healthcare system and enhancing the system's capacity to meet the increased needs of refugees and vulnerable host populations. Key activities included training healthcare workers, providing medical equipment, and ensuring funding for state-provided health benefit packages for refugees. Additionally, following the government's decision to extend TP for Ukrainian refugees until March 2025, the WG conducted a forecast for required services and basic expenditure items, with the latter estimating three lev-

els: prehospital emergency care, outpatient and inpatient care, and medical products. Furthermore, HN WG partners trained over **1,700** healthcare workers on first aid, emergency care, strategic risk assessment, laboratory capacity strengthening, logistics management for forecasting and supplying contraceptives to vulnerable groups, clinical management of rape, and MHPSS, among others. Over **150** refugees in Refugee Accommodation Centers were vaccinated against measles as part of a vaccination campaign to control the outbreak of this disease.

## Challenges and gaps

The sustainability of funding for government-provided healthcare services for refugees remains a key challenge, with a significant share of current funding coming from response partners. Efforts are ongoing to secure sufficient funding for the national health insurance company to ensure continuous healthcare services for refugees through 2024-2025. Ukrainian refugees face

difficulties accessing healthcare due to unclear entitlements and complex procedures. To address this, nationwide training sessions for over **650** healthcare providers and two online courses for more than **200** pharmacists were conducted, focusing on the extended benefit package and proper implementation. Strengthening healthcare providers' clinical capacities is nec-

essary to ensure quality and evidence-based care for refugees and vulnerable host populations. This includes revising clinical protocols, training providers, and ensuring the availability of essential equipment and disposables. Continuous enhancement of health system readiness for emergency response is also necessary. Ukrainian refugees with disabilities face additional chal-

## Government strengthening

All health interventions are coordinated with the government through the Ministry of Health and other relevant public authorities, ensuring alignment with national health system frameworks and emergency preparedness strategies. The Health and Nutrition Working Group Secretariat supports the Ministry in improving refugee response coordination capacities. Furthermore, the Ministry of Health has formed a working group to establish a sustainable

lenges in accessing medicines, specialized healthcare, assistive equipment, and social services. A comprehensive approach is needed to address these gaps. Vaccination coverage among Ukrainian refugees, particularly in crowded settings, remains a concern, though efforts to increase coverage have been made through various health partners' interventions.

framework for integrating foreigners into national systems, defining health rights and services for refugees and asylum seekers, and prioritizing donor budgetary support. During the reporting period, a holistic intervention was conducted to improve emergency, trauma, and clinical care through the implementation of **25** training and to enhance the capabilities of over **450** healthcare workers in basic emergency care, trauma life support, and first aid.

## Refugee participation and social cohesion

During the year's second quarter, the HN WG conducted health promotion activities to raise awareness among the host community and Ukrainian refugees on health-related issues such as immunization, nutrition, MHPSS, and the prevention of non-communicable diseases (NCD) risk factors. During the same period, HN WG members trained **10** Ukrainian refugees with medical backgrounds to serve as health mediators in different regions of Moldova. The health mediators have proven to bridge the gap between healthcare services and Ukrainian refugees by disseminating accurate information and guidance. From April to June 2024, the health mediators conducted over **120** in-

formative sessions in **20** cities across seven regions of the country, benefiting **1,687** with information and healthcare support. Additionally, HN WG members organized a three-day sports festival in the Hincesti district, with the participation of **350** local and refugee children, as a means to promote social cohesion between the youngest members of both refugee and host communities. Moreover, WG members organized two encounters with a psychologist, focused on communication with teenagers, as an opportunity for parents to improve their knowledge of critical thinking, emotional intelligence, adaptability, and other parenting tools.

## Support to civil society

Civil society remains crucial in advocating for and assisting refugees, providing essential health services, and promoting their integration into host communities. In June, over **10,000** citizens participated in a national blood donation campaign for World Blood Donor Day, organized by the National Blood Transfusion Center and members of the WG. This campaign, held in Chisinau, Balti, and Cahul, raised awareness of the need for universally accessible,

safe blood transfusion. Furthermore, HN WG members partnered with the National Centre for Health Management to conduct social listening in the healthcare sector to obtain feedback on access to medical services; the insights obtained will help identify challenges, improve service delivery, and ensure that the healthcare needs of both refugees and host communities are met.



### Spotlight Story

Brenda and Mihail, along with their three daughters, fled from Ukraine to the Republic of Moldova, where they initially found safe shelter in a Refugee Accommodation Centre. After the first cases of measles were detected in the RAC where they lived, the parents feared their daughters would catch the disease. After receiving accurate information regarding the efficiency, and safety of vaccination, they took their children to immunization without hesitation. Like them, many other families have accessed the vaccination programme, protecting children from measles, and reducing the likelihood of further outbreaks.

# Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion

## WG Co-Chairs

Ministry of Labor and Social Protection and UNDP

## Partners reporting activities during Q2

### Direct Implementation and Mandating Agencies:

- Acted
- Church World Service
- CONCORDIA Moldova
- Dorcas
- HEKS/EPER
- Helvetas
- Humanitarian Aid Center of the Jewish Community of Moldova
- International Organization for Migration
- Lumos Foundation
- National Youth Council of Moldova
- Norwegian Refugee Council
- People In Need
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- WeWorld
- World Vision International

### Implementing Partners:

- Charity Centre for Refugees
- Communitas
- Dorcas
- Humanitarian Aid Center of the Jewish Community of Moldova
- Laolalta
- National Congress of Ukrainians in Moldova
- Zdorovii Gorod

## Achievements

In the second quarter of 2024, the Livelihoods and Inclusion Working Group (LI WG) prioritized the economic and labour market integration of refugees and vulnerable host community members. Efforts included facilitating access to training in areas such as digital skills, beauty, administration, entrepreneurship, language skills (Romanian and English), job counseling, and labour market information. The group also supported entrepreneurship initiatives and helped connect individuals to local farmers and craftsmen's markets. Recognizing that the lack of access to af-

fordable childcare is one of the main barriers to parents being able to work, the LI WG assisted local communities in improving access to quality early childcare services while also providing professional training for those interested in careers in the childcare sector. Additionally, the LI WG strengthened the collaboration with the Education and Protection Working Groups to coordinate and work jointly on Romanian language programs for adults, and better enhance referrals of refugees and vulnerable locals to livelihood opportunities across the country.

## Challenges and Gaps

Throughout the second quarter of 2024, significant challenges to the labour market inclusion of refugees persisted, as highlighted during LI WG meetings. Key barriers included the difficulty in balancing caregiving with job responsibilities, limited flexible work arrangements, the requirement for Romanian language skills, low salaries, and challenges in finding jobs that match refugees' educational and professional backgrounds. Additional efforts are

needed to help refugees transition to employment, particularly in areas with limited national resources, such as access to skilling, upskilling, and reskilling opportunities, including Romanian language training. There is also a need for more internships, mentorship opportunities for young people, information on employment and labor rights, and entrepreneurship support.

## Government Strengthening

Members of the Livelihoods and Inclusion Working Group assisted the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection and the National Employment Agency in promoting available employment opportunities among refugees and vulnerable local populations. As part of this strategy, dedicated job fairs took place in Chisinau and other host cities, as well as supporting local-level coordination efforts related

to employment. Additionally, the LI WG and the Regional Socio-Economic Inclusion Working Group facilitated a regional dialogue with the National Employment Agency to discuss current challenges, lessons learned, and opportunities for enhancing the inclusion of refugees in the labour market.

## Refugee Participation and Social Cohesion

Promoting social cohesion and dialogue was a central element of the LI WG activities as a key precondition for ensuring social and economic inclusion of refugees and vulnerable groups in Moldova. To that end, members of the WG extensively promoted local social cohesion campaigns involving refugees and local community members

in a diverse range of dedicated events –sports competition, planting and green space cleaning events, and cultural and culinary events that contributed to enhanced inter-cultural dialogue, prevent conflicts and tensions, improve communication and peaceful coexistence among refugees and host communities.

### Spotlight Story

Anastasiia, a 40-year-old woman from Odessa, Ukraine, fled to Moldova with her family on February 24, 2022, the first day of the war. The decision to leave was made spontaneously, driven by her husband's concerns for their safety and that of their two sons. Upon arriving in Moldova, Anastasia found work as a nanny for a five-month-old child in a Ukrainian family. Her reputation as the manager of a well-known children's centre in Ukraine led the child's mother to contact her soon after her arrival. Anastasia is grateful to a Moldovan family who welcomed her in their home

with compassion and care. They continue to share the same apartment, and out of respect and gratitude, her husband began learning Romanian to better communicate with their hosts. The family is deeply thankful for the support they have received, feeling included in events and celebrations. Nastia is also grateful for the language classes and recreational activities offered by community centers in Chisinau. These programmes have provided her with opportunities to improve her skills, meditate, and maintain an active life.

# Cash Assistance

## SWG Co-Chairs

Ministry of Labor and Social Protection and UNHCR

### Achievements

The Cash Working Group (CWG) partners continued providing cash assistance to both refugees and host communities, including multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) and sector-specific programmes such as cash for protection and rent. During this period, CWG partners focused on refining a targeting methodology as part of a common cash facility approach. Using a jointly developed score-

card, some partners began collecting data on relevant indicators for targeting purposes. In April, CWG partners reviewed the transfer value for MPCA, considering market monitoring results and inflation data from the National Bureau of Statistics. As a result, it was decided to maintain the current transfer value, with a review scheduled for September.

### Challenges and Gaps

In 2024, partner organizations have encountered a notable decrease in funding for cash assistance, compared to the previous years of 2022 and 2023. At the same time, the situation in Ukraine remains unstable, with approximately **1,000** to **1,200** newcomers in Moldova seeking

financial support. Projections indicate that the number of new arrivals will begin to rise in October, potentially overwhelming the capacity of partner organizations to adequately address the needs of vulnerable refugee groups.

### Government Strengthening

The Cash Working Group presented the targeting methodology, scorecard, and tools for the identification of cases and data collection to the MLSP. This initiative aims to fa-

cilitate the identification of compatible indicators used in the government's social assistance programmes, paving the way for the inclusion of refugees in these programs.

### Support to Civil Society

The active involvement of CSOs within the CWG has significantly increased, with regular participation from various CSOs that make part of other Working Groups such as the PWG, BNWG, and Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) Task Force. This presence has strengthened CWG's capacity and facilitated diversified, multi-sectoral

exchanges. The targeting methodology developed by CWG partners can be utilized by CSOs to identify and target the most vulnerable groups, using both protection and socio-economic indicators. This approach ensures a comprehensive and effective response to the needs of these populations.

### Refugee Participation and Social Cohesion

By introducing the targeting methodology to refugee-led organizations and community leaders, the CWG obtained direct insights about the targeting process from within the refugee community. This approach allowed cash partners to counsel refugees and host communities about available

programs. Furthermore, refugees and locals took part in participatory assessments, providing qualitative data to determine the indicators concerning refugees' vulnerability, which ensured that the most vulnerable groups were accurately identified.



# Accountability to Affected People

## Task Force Co-Chairs

UNHCR and National Congress of Ukrainians of Moldova

### Achievements

The Accountability to Affected People Task Force (AAP TF) has proactively addressed service access challenges for Ukrainian refugees. A survey on access to banking services, a significant hurdle for many refugees, was conducted, and the feedback is now being used to advocate for better financial services. Social listening activities, conducted by Task Force members engaged over **100,000** users across more than **50** social media channels, enabling timely responses to specific concerns. Additionally, AAP TF partners conducted live information sessions on

their channels and organized over **600** in-person meetings, reaching more than **3,600** participants. Communication efforts included over **500** social media posts, which reached over **100,000** people. During the reporting period, hotlines remained a crucial information source for both refugees and Moldovans, with partners receiving over **20,000** calls in Q2 alone. The AAP TF also actively promotes refugee participation, seeking their feedback to improve partner programs, with more than **2,900** feedback and complaints recorded during this period.

### Challenges and Gaps

The availability of multiple hotlines sometimes lead to confusion among refugees and the Moldovan community regarding which hotline provides specific information on which subject. This has occasionally made it challeng-

ing to identify the potential gaps in the quality of the response. Nevertheless, close coordination with stakeholders involved in the hotline services is maintained to ensure the quality of the services and accuracy of information.

### Government Strengthening

The AAP TF maintained its close collaboration with government institutions to collect information on the needs of the refugee population. Through community engagement activities led by AAP partners, refugees actively participated in the feedback process, ensuring that govern-

ment directives effectively considered their needs. In the second quarter, AAP TF members conducted training on community engagement for MLSP staff and RAC personnel to promote refugee participation in decision-making processes affecting their integration in Moldova.

### Support to Civil Society

In the second quarter of 2024, CSOs were actively engaged in the work of the AAP TF by collecting feedback from refugees while providing them with updated information on available services. Such engagement reveals the liaison capacity of CSOs to connect refugees with

members of the Task Force, ensuring their engagement in the decisions that concern them. The quarterly Social Listening reports developed by AAP TF members added to the above, by informing partners, and other sectors, on the main concerns raised by refugees across the country.

## Refugee Participation and Social Cohesion

AAP partners played a key role in promoting social cohesion by organizing events and activities at Community Service Centres, which provided platforms for cultural exchange fostering a sense of community among refugees and host populations. One highlight was the celebration of Vyshyvanka Day, which was supported by the EU and AAP TF partners. The event, attended by approximately

**600** people, showcased traditional Vyshyvanka clothing and featured cultural performances, and traditional Ukrainian and Moldovan dances. These activities contribute significantly to the social integration of refugees within their host communities, by using culture as a means to strengthen social relations between communities.

# Disability and Age

## Task Force Co-Chairs

UNHCR, Keystone Moldova (KHS) and Help Age

## Achievements

In the second quarter of 2024, the Disability and Age Task Force (DATF) partners provided a wide range of services for over **2,800** people with disabilities and older adults. These services included the provision of medicine, assistive devices, ophthalmologic consultations, speech and language therapy, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, pedagogy, and psychosocial support activities. The deployment of mobile teams across the country was instrumental to carry out these interventions, facilitating the outreach to older persons and people with disabilities – including refugees and Moldovans in situation of vulnerability. Partners have also focused on adapting households of refugees with disabilities, completing **13** household and

RAC adaptations, and providing accessible transportation to **102** individuals, along with other personalized support. In addition, Disability and Age partners offered legal assistance to over **100** people with disabilities, helping them obtain disability certificates, ID cards, and Temporary Protection. The DATF partners also offered individualized support for issues related to housing, property, and employment, ensuring that those in need received the necessary information and services. The 24/7 Keystone hotline for persons with disabilities remained a critical entry point for identifying individuals in need, enabling partners to refer cases to other members of the Task Force or relevant sectors for further assistance.

## Challenges and Gaps

Limited resources remain a primary concern for DATF partners, who often face challenges in providing the services needed by older people and people with disabilities, particularly those concerning physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and rehabilitation therapy for children with au-

tism. The identification of refugees with disabilities in the rural areas of the country represents an additional challenge due to lack of data and visibility of people with disabilities in the communities.

## Government Strengthening

During this quarter, the Task Force actively fostered collaboration with the government through the work at the local level between DATF partners and social assistance workers. Furthermore, **40** RAC managers and volunteers

participated in a two-day training conducted by the DATF to improve abilities in communication and engagement with older refugees and those with disabilities.

## Support to Civil Society

The Disability and Age Task Force members further strengthened the capacity of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), particularly Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs). These OPDs are actively involved in all Task Force activities, which provides opportunities for building their capacity and ensuring they have a role in the deci-

sion-making process of the refugee response. OPDs are supported in applying for new grants, engaging in humanitarian mechanisms such as RRP sectors, and participating in training spaces to ensure disability inclusion within programming.

## Refugee Participation and Social Cohesion

The Task Force partners prioritized social cohesion activities, members implemented inclusive initiatives designed to integrate refugees, particularly older adults, and those

with disabilities, into Moldovan communities through sports and cultural activities, and promoting the right based approach to disabilities and active aging.

# Gender in Humanitarian Action Task Force

## Task Force Co-Chairs

UN Women & Platform for Gender Equality

## Achievements

In June 2024, the Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) results were presented at the Gender Task Force meeting. The full assessment can be accessed [here](#). The assessment's findings revealed that, when asked about their household needs, respondents across age, gender, ability, and household composition reported similar types of needs. However, female respondents, female-headed households with children, and households with at least one person with a disability frequently reported higher levels of needs than other groups. Regional differences were also noted, with more significant needs often report-

ed in southern Moldova compared to the capital and other regions. In April, Task Force members, in collaboration with the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, hosted a meeting between businesswomen from the Ukrainian community, Olena Kondratiuk, Vice-Speaker of the Parliament of Ukraine, and Doina Gherman, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova. This meeting offered the Ukrainian women a platform to discuss the challenges they face, such as adapting to a new reality for financial stability and share g the solutions they have found through various programs for socio-economic integration.

## Challenges and Gaps

While the Moldovan response has made significant progress in promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls, several challenges and areas for improvement remain. One challenge is the limited intersectional and diversity analysis to complement the gender lens and inform programming. Additionally, there has been insufficient reporting and analysis of Sex, Age, and Disability Disaggregated Data (SADDD), which is crucial for a comprehensive understanding of population needs. Furthermore, the involvement of refugee women leaders in shaping agendas

and decisions is limited, affecting the response inclusivity. In some cases, there has been inadvertent exclusion of men, boys, and underrepresented groups, such as older people, Roma, and persons with disabilities, from mainstream services and programs, including some livelihood or MHPSS initiatives. Another gap is the lack of data on funding trends for gender mainstreaming efforts. Engagement in gender equality programming across sectors and agencies has been uneven, impacting these initiatives' overall effectiveness.

## Support to Civil Society

During the second quarter of 2024, The Gender Task Force facilitated continuous communication with women's rights organizations that have expertise in gender equality, enabling them to become active members of national working groups focused on addressing gender disparities and promoting women's empowerment at both national

and local levels. Additionally, the Gender Task Force supported CSOs by establishing and maintaining information channels between women's rights organizations and the RRP coordination meetings, as well as regularly updating **33** CSOs on refugee response efforts.

## Refugee Participation and Social Cohesion

In quarter 2, the Task Force continued supporting initiatives of women-led organizations to apply for grants that would allow them to strengthen their implementation capacity. During this period, a Ukrainian women organization was conceded a grant from the Women's Peace and

Humanitarian Fund to deepen their activities focused on integration of Ukrainian women into Moldovan communities and promoting cooperation and intercultural dialogue of women from both refugee and host communities.

# MHPSS

## Technical Reference Group Co-Chairs

WHO, Family Federation for World Peace and Unification in Moldova, MENSANA

## Achievements

In Q2 2024, the MHPSS Technical Reference Group (MHPSS TRG) provided stress management workshops and mental health awareness sessions to 218 participants, including 158 students and 60 medical workers. Additionally, MHPSS TRG members conducted Training of Trainers (ToT) programs on managing self-harm and Problem Management Plus (PM+), empowering specialists to rep-

licate capacity-building spaces. During this period, the TRG partners have provided training on conflict resolution and child protection. In addition to the above, the MHPSS group supported partners in developing a case management system for refugees in Balti, set to launch in Fall 2024.

## Challenges and Gaps

Civil Society Organizations are operating under significant strain as they continue to provide critical services to refugees and socially vulnerable Moldovans. Many staff members are working around the clock, often responding

to calls at all hours, which has led to burnout. This issue is exacerbated by the closure or downsizing of some INGOs and CSOs, increasing the caseload of those still operational and often impacting their resources.

## Support to Civil Society

The MHPSS TRG has played a key role in supporting civil society's efforts to deliver mental health services by providing targeted support. Within this framework, two grants were awarded to NGOs working alongside Community Mental Health Centers. One project in Călărași focused on increasing mental health awareness through workshops for medical workers and psychoeducation sessions for students, directly benefiting 158 students

across four schools. Another initiative in Strășeni provided mental health awareness and stress management workshops, reaching over 200 individuals. Additionally, a project was implemented to improve access to essential diabetes medication and mental health support, particularly for Ukrainian refugees and locals. These initiatives, facilitated by the MHPSS TRG, have contributed to strengthening mental health services in the community.

## Government Strengthening

During quarter 2, the sector focused on enhancing national and local government capacity through training programmes and technical assistance, including a Training of Trainers (ToT) on managing self-harm and suicide behaviour among children and adolescents, designed to address the needs of both local and refugee populations,

and the Problem Management + (PM+) training for psycho-pedagogical specialists. These efforts aim at ensuring sustainable improvements in mental health services, enabling government institutions to provide high-quality care and effectively respond to the mental health needs of their communities.

## Refugee Participation and Social Cohesion

To promote meaningful refugee participation, the TRG conducted community consultations and participatory planning processes. Training and awareness programmes conducted by MHPSS TRG partners facilitate intercultural understanding and tension reduction by addressing

common mental health challenges and providing practical strategies for stress management and emotional well-being. The engagement of refugees in these spaces has contributed to fostering a sense of community and a more supportive environment for all participants.

### Spotlight Story

Sava, a 4-year-old boy, came to the WeWorld Community Center struggling with significant speech delays and social isolation. Despite multiple consultations, doctors assured his mother that Sava had no neurodivergent conditions, but she continued to seek a solution for his challenges. After learning about our speech therapy group, she brought Sava to the center. The results were immediate—Sava began speaking, and his progress

has been remarkable. He now learns new words daily, expresses himself more clearly, and has formed meaningful social connections with his peers. His mother credits this progress to the personalized care and attention provided by our dedicated staff, which she felt was lacking in the public kindergarten system. Her only regret is not finding the WeWorld Community Center sooner

# Prevention from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

## Network Co-Chairs

UNHCR

## Achievements

In the second quarter of 2024, the PSEA Network made significant advances through several initiatives across Moldova. In this line, the Network delivered six PSEA training sessions to **56** humanitarian workers, social assistance staff, medical professionals, and public officials involved in safeguarding vulnerable populations. To further reinforce the message of zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse, the PSEA network distributed **8,000** informational leaflets, **1,100** cards, and **55** posters on zero tolerance

through PSEA Network focal points, ensuring widespread access to critical information across different sectors. A key milestone for the quarter was the launch of the PSEAH Investigators Qualification Training Scheme (IQTS) Tier 2, which provided specialized training to **37** humanitarian workers from local CSOs, INGOs, and UN agencies across Moldova, on investigation of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (SEAH) cases.

## Challenges and gaps

As the PSEA Network strives to capacitate actors involved in the response to the refugee situation and social services across Moldova, ensuring participants effectively implement the skills gained from PSEA training remains a challenge. It is necessary to maintain a constant flow of information and the dissemination of key messages to

create an environment that is protective against PSEA. In addition, expanding the reach of the PSEA training to include a broader audience across all sectors remains a priority, as well as maintaining comprehensive coverage to ensure that PSEA principles are applied consistently throughout all areas of humanitarian work.

## Government Strengthening

As PSEA capacity-building training extended their reach to include social assistance workers and public health sector employees, the PSEA Network ensured a broader understanding of PSEA principles across critical service areas. Additionally, several SEAH IQTS Tier 2 program

participants are actively involved in supporting the governments' social assistance and health-related programs, which promotes further integration of PSEA practices into essential services.

## Support to Civil Society

The PSEA Network has directed efforts toward including local Civil Society Organizations in its initiatives. When selecting participants for the IQTS Tier 2 program, the Network ensured a representativity of at least 60% representatives from local CSOs, intending to build a robust pool of PSEA investigators within the Republic of Moldova. To

further support these efforts, the PSEA Network distributed printed material to local CSOs in order to mainstream awareness messages and ensure that all interactions with beneficiaries are conducted without risk of sexual exploitation or abuse, aligning with the highest standards of protection and ethical conduct.

# Counter-Trafficking

## Task Force Co-Chairs

National Committee on Combating Trafficking in Person and IOM

## Achievements

The Counter-trafficking working group progressed in its efforts to combat human trafficking. During the second quarter of the year, the Task Force held its second meeting dedicated to the visit of the Groups of Experts on Action against Trafficking in human beings (GRETA) to assess Moldova's Traffic in Persons (TIP) prevention efforts. In coordination with the State Chancellery, the Task Force has organized informative sessions to educate employers on the risks of trafficking, as well as for labor inspectors to identify trafficking victims. During the same period, the

General Inspectorate of Migration maintained its prevention and combating training, while the MLSP conducted extensive training on the National Referral Mechanism for Victims of Crime, focusing on newly recruited specialists and multidisciplinary teams across all rayons. Furthermore, Task Force members supported the General Prosecutor's Office in organizing a regional meeting between Moldovan and Ukrainian prosecutors and border police to enhance cooperation in combating trafficking and irregular migration.

## Challenges and Gaps

The National Committee for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings, organized by the Moldovan government, identified as one of the main challenges the fact that Moldova remains a country of destination for trafficking. Responding to this challenge requires additional training

for specialists and services for foreign victims. As an extra challenge, a decrease in the number of specialized police officers working in the Center for Combatting Trafficking of the Ministry of Interior affects the capacity for identification and prosecuting cases.