**Inclusion** of the needs of refugees, including Roma and LGBTIQ+ refugees, across GBV and Gender Equality National Programmes and their action plans for 2023-2027.

Collaboration with **Women-Led Organizations** (WLOs) to achieve a more sustainable and localized GBV response in line with GBV principles.

**GBV Risk Mitigation** across sectors, based on GBV assessments and refugee consultations, in coordination with the government and humanitarian partners.

## Population figures

**~122,600 refugees** from Ukraine in Moldova:

**58%** female

**44%** children (52% boys, 48% girls)

**18%** older persons

**10%** of households had at least one family member with a disability

## Highlights

**Government capacity building on GBV:** UNHCR's partner, Casa Marioarei, a Woman-Led Organization, trained 89 government staff across Moldova on GBV, with a focus on psychological first aid and legal support.

**GBV prevention and response activities of Roma-led partner Tarna Rom:** A GBV prevention curriculum for group activities was developed and implemented with refugee women, including Roma women, living at a Refugee Accommodation Centre. Tarna Rom is also supporting Roma women survivors of GBV by linking them to services.

**Girl Shine:** UNHCR and Casa Marioarei participated in a workshop to rollout the implementation of Girl Shine in Moldova. The first stages of the programme, including training of mentors, will take place in the second half of 2024, with activities for adolescent girls and caregivers taking place in 2025. Girl Shine is a GBV prevention curriculum for adolescent girls and care-givers that focuses on life skills and addressing early marriage.

**GBV risk mitigation targeting LGBTIQ+ persons, persons living with HIV, sex workers and persons who use drugs:** Through a partnership with UNAIDS and four local organizations across Moldova, GBV risks have been reduced through capacity building for community volunteers and information sharing on HIV, Tuberculosis, Sexual and Reproductive Health and GBV services. Mobile teams are a central aspect of the project, reaching persons living in remote areas and without access to information and services.

## Key figures

- In the first half of 2024, UNHCR trained approximately **270 persons**, including local organizations, humanitarian workers and government officials on GBV Core Principles, GBV Risk Mitigation and GBV Safety Walks.

- In the first half of 2024UNHCR, in partnership with WLO Casa Marioarei, supported:
  - 268 persons with group mental health and psychosocial support
  - 261 persons in empowerment and GBV prevention workshops
  - 156 persons with psychological services
  - 159 persons with gynaecological services
  - 120 persons with legal aid services
  - GBV case management and shelter for GBV survivors

- UNHCR, in partnership with UNAIDS and four local partners, supported:
  - 323 refugees with HIV prevention services
  - 138 persons with case management and psychosocial support
  - 480 refugees through information-sharing sessions on HIV and GBV
  - 62 persons with dignity kits

- There is 100% adherence to HIV treatment started by refugees in Moldova

Refugee women in Chisinau engage in digital literacy classes organized by UNHCR's partner, Casa Marioarei. These classes provide participants with essential skills in navigating the digital world, empowering them to access vital information, apply for jobs, and stay safe online.

# Operational Response

■ **Psychosocial support and wellbeing:** Group psychosocial support activities delivered by UNHCR partners Casa Marioarei and Tarna Rom have fostered trust with the refugee community and served as safe spaces for women to receive psychological support, as well as information on sexual, reproductive, and maternal health and GBV services. These activities have also served as entry points for other services, including gynaecological consultations and the disclosure of GBV incidents. Women participants intend to continue gathering even after the cycle of activities ends given the support provided.

■ **Skills development:** Through partner Casa Marioarei, UNHCR is supporting skills workshops contributing to the local integration of refugee women, the establishment of community ties disrupted by war, and the personal empowerment and safety of all participants. Digital literacy classes include a GBV risk mitigation component on how to remain safe online.

■ **HIV, Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and GBV-related services for marginalized communities:** HIV prevention, harm reduction, and response, as well as SRH and GBV awareness-raising for LGBTIQ+ refugees, people living with HIV, sex workers, and people who use drugs, remain life-saving efforts through UNAIDS and local partners across the Transnistrian region, and the south, central, and north, regions of Moldova. These services are delivered through both static and mobile units, with refugees trained to share and replicate this information within their communities.

# Working with Partners

■ UNHCR is working closely with the National Agency for Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence to establish a training centre aimed at offering capacity building opportunities on GBV for government staff. UNHCR's Global Learning Development Centre has provided technical support to the process and is sharing good practices on learning methodologies and approaches. Planning is underway for UNHCR, in collaboration with UNICEF and IOM, to support the National Agency to train police officers on GBV in the fall, with learning needs now being assessed. The National Agency has also indicated its intention to include in its action plan UNHCR's GBV prevention programme Girl Shine, aiming at replicating it.

■ As part of the consolidation process of the Refugee Accommodation Centres, UNHCR is collaborating with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection to provide proper guidance and support to government institutions and partners on the safe and efficient referral of GBV survivors to available services.

# Refugee Coordination Forum

■ The GBV Sub-Working Group, co-chaired by UNHCR and UNFPA, conducted presentations at all Working Groups on sector-specific findings and recommendations from the 2023 GBV Safety Audit. As a result of these consultations, a GBV Risk Mitigation tool for Private Accommodation was developed and collaboration with the Roma Task Force and Child Protection Sub-Working Group was strengthened to develop and implement GBV prevention activities. UNHCR is leading the establishment of a task force to coordinate resources for the implementation of the Girl Shine programme.

■ To scale up efforts to reduce GBV risks, the GBV Sub-Working Group developed and rolled out a GBV Safety Walk training package. The package was inspired by UNHCR's Global GBV Safety Audit toolkit and helps local actors to proactively identify risks and advocate for measures to mitigate them. So far, over 50 people have been trained.

■ The GBV Sub-Working Group trained approximately 270 people on GBV, including GBV core concepts, how to safely refer cases using the GBV Referral Pathways, and GBV Risk Mitigation. A highlight was a GBV Onboarding Session carried out with new staff from sub-sector partners to present key documents and principles on GBV work.

**UNHCR is grateful for the support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to global UNHCR programmes.**

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

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

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