

In displacement situations, **community members** are key first responders. UNHCR builds on their strategies to enable faster, more effective responses that address **diverse needs**, ensuring inclusive, efficient, and sustainable protection and assistance delivery.

UNHCR supports **refugee inclusion** in decision-making by creating opportunities for participation and advocacy. This empowers refugees to contribute to **solutions**, fostering self-reliance, and ensuring their needs are incorporated into local strategies.

UNHCR, in collaboration with local and refugee communities and authorities, supports community-led initiatives aimed at **improving social infrastructure** and **services** to promote a **friendly** and inclusive environment for everyone.

Population figures

~127,000 Ukrainian refugees in Moldova

58% women and girls

42% children (22% boys, 20% girls)

13% older persons

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

*Figures as of 31 January 2025

Highlights

Strengthening refugee inclusion: To enhance refugee representation and advocacy, UNHCR supported the establishment of the Refugee Council, a consultative body in Ungheni, creating a platform for meaningful engagement between refugees and local authorities. This initiative aims to increase refugee inclusion in local decision-making processes, enabling them to advocate for their rights and address challenges related to legal protection, access to services, and social inclusion.

Empowering communities through Small Grants: UNHCR supported women refugee-led and Roma-led organisations to implement protection and inclusion activities, enhance refugee engagement, and strengthen empowerment efforts. These grants also facilitated advocacy and outreach initiatives, promoting greater participation and self-reliance within refugee communities. As a result, communities gained greater representation in decision-making, improved access to services, and developed sustainable support networks, fostering long-term resilience and inclusion.

Advancing Roma Inclusion Through Regional Cooperation: To support inclusive communities, UNHCR co-organized a regional conference to promote Roma inclusion by addressing rights barriers, fostering cultural sensitivity, and sharing best practices from six countries in the region, including Ukraine, Romania, Germany, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Moldova. The event strengthened cross-border collaboration, raised awareness of Roma rights, and contributed to policy discussions aimed at improving access to services and opportunities for Roma communities.

Key figures

- Over **11,000 people** benefited from **23 Community Support Initiatives** implemented by UNHCR in partnership with the Charity Center for Refugees (CCR). These initiatives fostered inclusion, social cohesion, and community participation by improving infrastructure, providing vocational training, psychosocial support, and gender-based violence prevention, strengthening community resilience across Moldova.
- Nearly **400 people with disabilities** and chronic conditions accessed vital information through the disability hotline managed by UNHCR partner Keystone Moldova, ensuring improved access to services and support.
- UNHCR trained staff from **40 grassroots organisations** and community volunteers in nonprofit management, fundraising, project management, advocacy, external relations, communication, and partnership coordination, strengthening their ability to support displaced and host communities effectively.
- 11 Community Service Centers** in Moldova provided critical support to displaced and host communities, benefiting over **21,000 individuals**. Services included child protection, mental health support, gender-based violence prevention, cash assistance, and vocational training, fostering resilience and stability.



Organised by UNHCR partner the Charity Centre for Refugees (CCR), a summer camp brings refugee children together in a safe, joyful space for learning, friendship, and cultural exchange.

Operational Response

To enhance [refugee inclusion](#) in decision-making, a platform of 48 refugee leaders and NGO representatives was established to exchange information and tackle community challenges. Eight consultative sessions discussed topics like cash assistance and vehicle status, while refugee leaders participated in five Refugee Coordination Forum working groups and government roundtables to advocate for their communities.

To promote language inclusion and cultural exchange, initiatives in 2024—such as Ukrainian language clubs, Romanian classes for refugees, and a bilingual children's book—fostered linguistic inclusion, cultural exchange, and strengthened [community collaboration](#).

[Supporting refugees on the Dniester's left bank](#): To enhance access to essential services and strengthen refugee engagement, UNHCR supported the opening of a Community Support Center in Ribnita. The center fosters community participation and provides essential support. Additionally, a small grant to a woman refugee-led organisation enabled refugees and vulnerable groups to access English courses and financial literacy training, equipping them with skills for integration and self-reliance.

Working with Partners

To strengthen communities' ability to protect themselves and promote social cohesion and participation, UNHCR partners with the [Charity Center for Refugees](#), [National Congress of Ukrainians of Moldova](#), [Laolata](#), [Tarna Rom](#), [Keystone Moldova](#), [Jewish Community of the Republic of Moldova](#), and [INTEROS](#). These partnerships support community-led protection efforts, ensuring inclusive participation and providing the necessary support.

To enhance local inclusion and resilience, UNHCR also collaborates with the municipalities of [Ungheni](#), [Causeni](#), and [Cahul](#) through Memorandums of Cooperation, ensuring sustainable protection solutions for displaced and stateless persons while addressing the needs of host communities.

Refugee Coordination Forum

UNHCR co-leads the Disability and Age Task Force to promote the inclusion, protection, and rights of older persons and persons with disabilities by ensuring accessibility of humanitarian services, advocating for age- and disability-sensitive policies, and addressing specific protection risks.

UNHCR also co-leads the Accountability to Affected Persons (AAP) Task Force to enhance refugee participation, feedback mechanisms, and two-way communication, ensuring transparency, accountability, and inclusive decision-making.

Additionally, UNHCR supports the Roma Task Force to address challenges faced by Roma refugees, advocate for equal access to services, combat discrimination, and strengthen Roma-led community engagement.



Children play in the outdoor playground of the UNHCR-supported Community Support Centre in Comrat. UNHCR supports 11 Community Support Centres across Moldova, open to displaced and host communities. These centres provide essential services, including cultural and recreational activities, fostering social cohesion and sustainability through locally driven initiatives and partnerships.

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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