Population figures

~128,000 Ukrainian refugees in Moldova:

- **49%** children
- **63%** females
- **13%** older persons
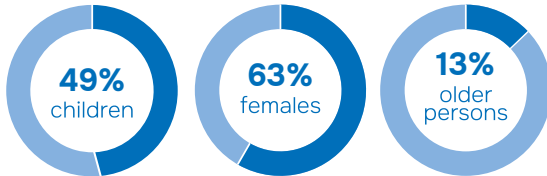
~ 1.8 M arrivals since 24 February 2022

Legal status in the country

~ 73,300 refugees have been granted Temporary Protection.

~ 6,500 citizens of Ukraine have been granted resident permits, either permanent or temporary.

~ 1,400 individuals are in the asylum system:

754	**708**	**151**
asylum seekers under examination	humanitarian protection beneficiaries	Statelessness determination applicants

~ 20,000 refugees received cash assistance

~ 2,800 refugees supported with legal assistance

~ 6,000 refugees provided with information by UNHCR

~ 400 refugees supported with socio-economic inclusion, including livelihoods

*Figures are for 2025 as of 30 April 2025

Highlights of the month

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Victoria, a former conductor from Ukraine, holds a black-and-white photograph of Viacheslav Serhiiovych Palkin (1935–2008), a renowned Ukrainian conductor and composer who played a significant role in shaping her musical career. Now a refugee in Moldova, she finds solace in remembering not only the music but also the people who shaped her journey.

Read the full story on UNHCR's Moldova website

"**We have all lost something, but we find pieces of ourselves in each other.**"

-**Victoria**

Moldovan municipalities deepen efforts for inclusive local development

In April, UNHCR marked key milestones under the Cities of Solidarity initiative, aimed at promoting social inclusion for displaced persons and vulnerable Moldovans. On 8th April, a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) was signed with the Comrat Mayor's Office to formalise joint efforts in inclusive community development. Later that month, on 24th April, a similar MoC was signed in Balti, where UNHCR and local authorities also launched a Peaceful Coexistence Project, including the opening of a multifunctional sports field to foster youth engagement and social cohesion. The same day, a new Balti Community Service Centre was inaugurated, with partners such as IOM, UNFPA, ACTED, and the Norwegian Embassy. These developments highlight UNHCR's ongoing collaboration with municipalities to build inclusive and resilient communities across Moldova. This is achieved through initiatives that facilitate access to essential services—such as employment counselling, social assistance, language courses, cultural activities, and community-based support—while also improving local infrastructure and fostering inclusive participation in community life. Together, these efforts strengthen social cohesion and benefit both refugees and host communities.

Child-led protection for safer schools

To support the creation of child-friendly school environments, UNHCR and its partner, the National Centre for Child Abuse Prevention (CNPAC), organised a training session on Children's Participation in Decision-Making and the Development of School Protection Policies. Attended by educators and child protection staff from across Moldova, the session focused on involving children in shaping school safety policies and preventing violence. To address bullying and create safer spaces for all children—especially refugee children—the training equipped school personnel with tools to foster inclusive, protective learning environments. It strengthened participants' capacity to develop child-centred policies and implement practical measures for violence prevention, promoting a culture of accountability, respect, and active student engagement.

Collaborative response to mitigate funding gaps and sustain support for refugees

To ensure continuity of services amid resource constraints, UNHCR held consultations with 24 national and local Refugee Response Plan (RRP) partners, as well as with refugees and host communities, to assess the impact of funding shortfalls and jointly identify mitigation strategies. These discussions provided a space for partners to share operational challenges, reassess priorities, and adapt implementation plans. In this context, priorities were tailored to the most pressing needs of refugees—ensuring the continuation of critical services such as legal assistance, basic needs support, and targeted assistance for the most vulnerable, including children, older persons, and persons with disabilities among others. As a result, activities and budgets were jointly revised to minimise disruptions in refugee assistance and uphold protection for those most at risk, amid widespread funding shortfalls affecting the most vulnerable.

Strengthening border and protection systems

The Office of the People's Advocate, in collaboration with Moldova State University, UNHCR, and the Council of Europe Office in Chișinău, organized the first National Scientific Conference "Current Challenges in Border Security and International Protection." The event brought together 42 contributors and over 130 participants from Moldova and abroad to discuss migration, human rights, and border security, within the framework of Moldova's international obligations and European aspirations. The conference produced recommendations for legislative reform and stronger alignment with international protection standards. These outcomes informed national policy discussions and supported efforts to enhance Moldova's asylum and border management systems.

©Courtesy of the State Secretariat for Migration (SEM)

A delegation from Moldova—comprising representatives from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, General Inspectorate for Migration, Law Centre of Advocates, and UNHCR—visited Switzerland to explore good practices in refugee reception and integration. Hosted by the Swiss Secretariat for Migration (SEM) and UNHCR Switzerland, the team toured reception centres and met with key actors to learn how fair asylum procedures and strong integration policies support those forced to flee. The insights gained will help strengthen Moldova's asylum system and improve support services for refugees, contributing to more effective and humane protection practices.

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

acted   aVe COPIII   people's advocate OMBUDSMAN   CHARITY CCR   CDA Centrul de Drept al Avocaților

Humanitarian Aid Center of the Jewish Community of Moldova   CNPAC   CRS Catholic Relief Services   CASA MĂRIOAREI   INTERSOS

KEYSTONE MOLDOVA   LAOTALA   NCUM   tarna rom   UNAIDS

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