Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

Rights and Entitlements of Refugees in the Republic of Moldova According to Their Legal Status.

June 2025[1]

Rights / Entitlements	TP Holders	Asylum Seekers	Refugees and Beneficiaries of International Protection	Residence Permit Holders *(Work, Family Reunification and Permanent Residence, Study)*	Responsible Entity	Available Assistance to Citizens of the Republic of Moldova
Access to Accommodation and Housing *1951 Convention Threshold:* *Refugees lawfully staying in the territory should be given treatment as favorable as possible, and at least as favorable as that given to other non-nationals in similar situations regarding housing. (Article 21)*	Right to access Temporary Placement Centers for Displaced Persons from the territory of other states (managed by social service providers under MLSP/ATAS) for up to 90 days (extendable for vulnerable groups). ***Legal Source:*** Point 18, Annex of GD No. 21/2023; Art. 38[6] let. (f), Law No. 270/2008 Points 7 and 33, Annex 1 of the MLSP Order No. 182/2023	Asylum seekers must stay in accommodation centers managed by the General Inspectorate for Migration (IGM) during the asylum procedure. They are generally required to remain there for up to 90 days (extendable to 6 months) unless exceptions apply. ***Legal Source:*** Arts. 28 let. (m), 31 para. (2) & , Law No. 270/2008; Point 8 para. (1) and (2), point 30, point 31, and point 31, GD No. 1023/2012	Refugees and beneficiaries of international protection have the right to temporary accommodation in designated centers managed by the IGM, typically for up to 3 months during the integration program if they lack sufficient means. This period may be extended for an additional 3 months. Individuals are not eligible if they are married to a citizen or lived outside the centers during the asylum procedure, unless enrolled in the integration program. They may rent space in the centers afterward, subject to availability. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 24 para. (1) and (2) Law No. 274/2011; Art. 33 para. (1) let. (m), Art. 36 para. (1) Law No. 270/2008; Point 8 para. (3), para. 31, para. 32, para. 34, para. 35, GD No. 1023/2012	Must typically secure private housing and provide evidence to authorities.	**National Level:** General Inspectorate for Migration; Ministry of Internal Affairs / National Social Assistance Agency; Ministry of Labor and Social Protection **Local Level**: Local authorities managing temporary placement centers, Chisinau Social Assistance Department, ATAS	Access to state program "First Home" (Law no. 293/2017) if eligible. General access to private housing market. Access to the Public Housing Project III which is a social housing programme based on the Law No. 75/2015 on Housing and the Government Decision No. 447/2017 on Social Housing Administration.
Access to Education	**Children:** Entitled to compulsory general education (primary and secondary) and	**Children:** Required to access compulsory general education and pre-primary education	Refugees and beneficiaries of international protection have the right to access compulsory	**Children:** Entitled to access education, including pre-primary education (preschools),	**National Level**: Ministry of Education and Research.	Free and compulsory general primary and secondary education for all citizens.

[1] This document outlines the legal rights and entitlements of refugees in the Republic of Moldova based on their legal status as of June 2025. It reflects the formal provisions established in national legislation and relevant frameworks. However, it does not necessarily indicate effective access to these rights, as practical barriers and implementation challenges may limit their realization in practice. The color coding used throughout the document assesses the extent to which each legal status granted in Moldova provides rights that are in line with the minimum standards set by the 1951 Refugee Convention (Green: fully complies; Yellow: partially complies or limited; Red: does not comply or not provided). It is important to note that, under international law, refugee status is declaratory. A person is a refugee from the moment they meet the criteria set out in Article 1A(2) of the Convention, regardless of whether or not they have been formally recognized as such by a State. Therefore, individuals holding alternative legal statuses (such as temporary protection) may still qualify as refugees in the sense of the Convention. Asylum seekers are individuals who have applied for international protection and whose claims are under assessment to determine whether they meet the criteria for refugee status under the Convention. Their entitlements during this process are also considered in this assessment. The purpose of this analysis is to evaluate whether the rights attached to each legal status in Moldova comply with the Convention's standards for the protection of refugees, and to support discussions on inclusion in national systems, as well as on the development of a post-Temporary Protection regime in Moldova.

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1951 Convention Threshold: *1951 Convention Threshold: A) Primary: Same as nationals. B) Secondary/Higher: Treatment as favorable as possible (at least as favorable as other non-nationals) incl. access, recognition, fee remission, scholarships (Art 22).*	pre-primary education (preschool) on the same terms as citizens, within the limits of the system's capacity. **All:** Access to vocational and tertiary education is granted under the general conditions applicable to foreigners, typically requiring tuition fees unless covered by scholarships or bilateral agreements. ***Legal Source:*** Point 17, point 17[1], Annex of GD No. 21/2023; Art. 38[6] let. (h), Law No. 270/2008; MER Order and Instruction No. 1109/2023; No. 1538/2023, and No. 1126/2024	(preschool) under the same conditions as Moldovan children. Enrollment is generally expected within 3 months from the date of the asylum application submitted by the child or their legal representative, or up to 1 year if preparatory courses are needed. **All:** Access to vocational and tertiary education is granted under the general conditions applicable to foreigners, typically requiring tuition fees unless covered by scholarships or bilateral agreements. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 28 let. (p), Art. 29, Law No. 270/2008	general education, pre-primary education (preschools), and other forms of education (vocational and tertiary) under the same conditions as citizens, potentially including access to state funding and scholarships. **Children:** The Roadmap for the Full Inclusion of Refugee Children in the Moldovan Education Systems, approved by MER on 1 April 2025, outlines the concept of free, introductory Romanian language courses, but this has not yet been implemented.	under the same conditions as Moldovan children. **All:** General access to the education system is available. Post-compulsory education is accessible under the same admission conditions as for citizens, though it typically requires tuition fees unless covered by scholarships or bilateral agreements. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 15 para. (1), (2), (5), Art. 19 para. (2), Law No. 274/2011; Art. 9 para. (11), Art. 60, Art. 150 para. (1), (2) and (5) Law No. 152/2014	**Local Level**: Local Directorates of Education	Higher education opportunities are available at public universities, with state-funded places, scholarships, and financial aid options based on merit/need. Vocational training programs have limited availability.
Access to Labor Market (Wage earning employment) *1951 Convention Threshold:* *Refugees lawfully staying receive most favorable treatment given to nationals of a foreign country in similar circumstances (Art 17).*	Right to work during the temporary protection (TP) period without a separate work permit. May register with the National Employment Agency (ANOFM) for employment support. Subject to general labor laws. ***Legal Source:*** Point 23, point 23[1], Annex of GD No. 21/2023; Art. 3 let. (b), Art. 9 para. (1), Law No. 154/2003; Art. 38[6] let. (d) and(e), Law No. 270/2008	There is no automatic right to work. However, temporary access to employment may be granted upon request if the person lacks sufficient means of subsistence. If authorized, employment is subject to general labor legislation. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 28 let. (l), Law No. 270/2008; Art. 3 let. (b), 9(1), Law No. 154/2003	Refugees and beneficiaries of international protection have the right to be employed, to exercise liberal professions, and to engage in entrepreneurial activities under the same conditions as citizens. Entitled to receive a salary and social insurance. Eligible for employment support measures through the National Employment Agency (ANOFM). Subject to general labor legislation. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 33 para. (1) let. (d), Law No. 270/2008; Art. 12 para. (1) and (2), Law No. 274/2011; Art. 2 para. (2), Law No. 105/2018	**Permanent Residents:** Generally have the right to work, subject to the provisions of the Labor Code. **Temporary Residents:** The right to work typically depends on the type of residence permit and often requires a separate work permit, which must be requested by the employer. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 12, Law no. 274/2011; Art. 2 para. (2), Law No. 105/2018; Art. 3 let. (b), Art. 46 para. (9), Art. 55 para. (1) let. (c[1]), Labor Code (Law No. 154/2003);	**National Level**: Ministry of Labor and Social Protection National Employment Agency (ANOFM), **Local Level**: Local Offices of ANOFM	ANOFM offers job search assistance, training, and unemployment benefits (if contribution criteria met). Labor laws ensure minimum wage, working hour limits, paid leave, and safety standards (compulsory health insurance, pension fund).

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				Law No. 200/2010 (defines permit conditions)		
Access to Labor Market (Self-Employment) *1951 Convention Threshold:* *Refugees lawfully staying receive treatment as favorable as possible (at least not less favorable than aliens generally) for self-employment, establishing businesses (Art 18).*	The right to work exists; however, legal and administrative barriers limit access to self-employment. Individuals are generally excluded from the simplified entrepreneur's patent system under Law No. 93/1998, which requires permanent resident status. ***Legal Source***: Art. 38[6] let. (d), Law No. 270/2008; Point 23 from Annex of GD No. 21/2023; Implicit exclusion from Law No. 93/1998; Law No. 160/2011 applies procedurally	The right to work may be granted temporarily if the individual lacks sufficient means. However, legal and administrative barriers significantly limit access to self-employment. Individuals are generally excluded from the simplified entrepreneur's patent system under Law No. 93/1998, which is reserved for permanent residents. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 28 let. (l), Law No. 270/2008; Implicit exclusion from Law No. 93/1998	Entitled to engage in self-employment, liberal professions, and entrepreneurial activities. Must comply with standard business authorization procedures as outlined in Law No. 160/2011. May access the simplified entrepreneur's patent system under Law No. 93/1998, provided all eligibility criteria are met. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 33 para. (1) let. (d), Law No. 270/2008; Art. 12 Law No. 274/2011; Art. 2 para. (2), Law No. 105/2018; Art. 2 para. (1), Law No. 845/1992; Art. 2, Law No. 93/1998;	**Permanent Residents:** Generally, have the right to engage in self-employment and entrepreneurial activities. Must follow standard procedures under Law No. 160/2011 and may access the simplified patent system under Law No. 93/1998. **Temporary Residents:** Access to self-employment typically depends on the type of residence permit (e.g., an entrepreneurial or investment-specific permit may be required). Must comply with standard procedures under Law No. 160/2011. **Legal Source:** Art. 12 para. (1) and para. (2), Law No. 274/2011; Law No. 200/2010; Art. 3 let. (b), Law No. 154/2003 Art. 2 para. (2), Law No. 105/2018	**National Level:** Ministry of Labor and Social Protection National Employment Agency (ANOFM), Ministry of Finance **Local Level:** Local Offices of ANOFM, Public Services Agency	Citizens can start businesses following registration/authorization procedures. Support includes potential training, financial aid, micro-loans, and the simplified 'patenta' system for small-scale activities.
Access to Banking Services *1951 Convention Threshold:* *Access needed to fulfill rights like work/self-employment; should be under same conditions as nationals.*	Generally have access to basic financial services (e.g., current accounts, debit cards) using the Temporary Protection ID or passport, subject to Know Your Customer (KYC) and Anti-Money Laundering (AML) checks, in accordance with Law No. 308/2017. Access to loans and more complex financial products is typically very limited due to the absence of	Access is generally very limited, as banks often do not recognize asylum seeker documents for KYC/AML purposes, as required under Law No. 308/2017. Opening a bank account may be possible in rare cases where the individual is formally employed. Access to loans and other complex financial services is highly unlikely due to the lack of recognized documentation, stable income, and credit	Generally have access to financial services. An official ID facilitates account opening, and basic accounts can typically be opened, subject to KYC/AML requirements under Law No. 308/2017. Access to loans and other complex financial products depends on standard banking criteria - such as proof of income, credit history, and residency status - and remains	Basic bank accounts can generally be opened using a residence permit or official ID, subject to KYC/AML requirements under Law No. 308/2017. Permanent residents typically face fewer barriers. Access to loans and other complex financial services depends on standard banking criteria - such as income, duration of residency, and creditworthiness - and may be	**National Level:** National Bank of Moldova (Regulator). **Local Level**: Commercial Banks.	Citizens have full access to the full range of banking services - including current accounts, savings, loans, mortgages, and investment products - subject to individual bank policies and creditworthiness assessments.

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	residency status, stable income, or credit history. ***Legal Source:*** Law No. 62/2008; Art. 13(3), Law No. 308/2017	history. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 32, Law No. 270/2008; Art. 13 para (2) and (3) Law No. 62/2008; Art. 2 para. (1) Law No. 308/2017	limited in practice. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 13 para (2) and (3) Law No. 62/2008; Art. 2 para. (1) Law No. 308/2017	more challenging for temporary residents. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 13 para (2) and (3) Law No. 62/2008; Art. 2 para. (1) Law No. 308/2017		
Access to Medical Care *1951 Convention Threshold:* *Refugees lawfully staying in the territory should receive the same treatment as nationals with respect to public relief and assistance. (Art. 23).*	Access is granted to emergency and primary care, emergency dental services, vaccinations, oncology treatment, dialysis, outpatient consultations, compensated medications and medical devices, and free public health screenings regardless of insurance status. Registration with a family doctor is required to access outpatient care and compensated medications. **If Employed:** Eligible for full health insurance coverage under the same conditions as citizens. **If Unemployed:** Not eligible to purchase public health insurance individually. **Children:** Entitled to the same healthcare services as Moldovan children. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 30, Law No. 270/2008; Point 26, GD No. 21/2023; Art. 4 para. (4) let. (a) , Art. 5 para. (4), and Art. 9 para. (1), Law No. 1585/1998	Access to primary and emergency medical assistance is provided free of charge, including free HIV testing. Services are funded by the state budget through the General Inspectorate for Migration (IGM). Access to the full health insurance package is not available unless employed. However, individuals will be able to opt into voluntary health insurance starting January 16, 2025. **Children:** Entitled to the same healthcare services as Moldovan children. ***Legal Source***: Art. 28 let. (o) and let. (o^1), Art. 30, Law No. 270/2008; Art. 5 para. (4), Art. 9 para. (1), Law No. 1585/1998	**Access to Healthcare Services:** If insured, individuals receive treatment identical to that of citizens under the compulsory health insurance system (Law No. 1585/1998), with access to the full range of healthcare services. **During the Integration Program (Law No. 274/2011):** Individuals are insured by the government as unemployed and benefit from free access to healthcare services without personal contributions. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 33 para. (1) let. (i), Law No. 270/2008; Art. 16 para. (2), Law No. 274/2011; Art. 4 para. (4) let. (o), Art. 5 para. (4), Art. 9 para. (1), Law No. 1585/1998	**Access to Healthcare Services:** Entitled to healthcare under the compulsory health insurance system (Law No. 1585/1998), provided they are insured, either through employment, personal contribution, or government coverage if they fall under an eligible category. There is no automatic insurance coverage through integration programs. **Children:** Entitled to the same healthcare services as Moldovan children, regardless of their parents' insurance status. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 16 para. (1), Art. 19 para. (1), Law No. 274/2011; Art. 5 para. (4), Art. 9 para. (1), Art. 17 para. (5), Law No. 1585/1998 (mandatory health insurance framework).	**National Level:** Ministry of Health; National Agency for Public Health; National Health Insurance Company (CNAM). **Local Level:** Local healthcare providers (hospitals, clinics, family doctor centers).	**Access to Healthcare for Citizens:** Insured citizens access healthcare services through the National Health Insurance Company (CNAM). Uninsured individuals are entitled to a minimum package of services, including emergency care, primary care, and public health services. **Children:** Children up to 18 years old, including pupils and students enrolled in education levels 3 to 8 as defined by Article 12 of the Education Code, are entitled to full healthcare coverage, provided they regularly attend classes, including those studying abroad. Services are funded through health insurance contributions and the state budget. **Specialized Care:** Access to specialized care generally requires valid insurance or direct payment. **Other Categories Covered by State Support (as per national legislation):** Includes pensioners; pregnant and breastfeeding women; parents on childcare leave; registered unemployed; individuals in state care (e.g., orphanages, residential institutions, penitentiaries,

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							long-term care); war veterans and other groups covered by special laws; persons with disabilities; and those receiving social aid under the Law on Social Assistance.
Access to Contributory schemes (Social Insurance): *1951 Convention Threshold:* *Refugees lawfully staying in the territory should receive the same treatment as nationals concerning social security (Art. 24).*		Individuals employed under a formal contract are mandatorily insured and required to pay contributions. They may access contributory benefits such as sickness, maternity, unemployment, and pensions, provided they meet the applicable contribution period requirements. Ukraine and Moldova are currently drafting a new bilateral social security agreement. Once it enters into force, the agreement will enable the export of benefits to both countries, allowing for the aggregation of benefit entitlements by combining contribution periods from both countries. So far, the agreement is expected to cover old-age, disability, and survivor pensions. However, sickness and maternity benefits have not yet been included. This model is widely used across EU countries ***Legal Source:*** Point 23 GD No. 21/2023; Art. 38[6] let. (d), Law No. 270/2008; Art. 4 para. (1), Art. 17, Art. 19 para. (6), Law No. 489/1999	Hold a conditional and temporary right to work if they lack sufficient means. If employed, they are in principle subject to social insurance contributions. However, the temporary and often unstable nature of their employment makes it very difficult to meet the required contribution periods for accessing social insurance benefits. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 28 let. (l), Law No. 270/2008; Art. 4 para. (1), Art. 17, Art. 19 para. (6), Law No. 489/1999	If formally employed or engaged in another type of insured activity, individuals are integrated into the public social insurance system and required to pay contributions. They may access contributory benefits such as pensions, sickness, and unemployment, under the same conditions as other insured persons, provided they meet the applicable contribution requirements. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 33 para. (1) let. (d), let. (e), Law No. 270/2008; Art. 4, Art. 17, Art. 19 para. (6), Law No. 489/1999	If formally employed or engaged in an insured activity, individuals are integrated into the public social security system. They may access contributory benefits such as pensions, sickness, and unemployment under the same conditions as other insured persons, provided the relevant contribution requirements are met. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 4, Art. 17, Art. 19 para. (6), Law No. 489/1999; Law No. 200/2010; Law No. 154/2003	**National Level:** MLSP; National Social Insurance House (CNAS). **Local Level:** Territorial Offices of CNAS (CTAS).	Citizens have access to pensions (old-age, disability, survivor), sickness allowances, maternity and paternity benefits, and unemployment benefits, provided they meet the mandatory contribution periods established for each benefit type under the public social insurance system.
Access to Non-Contributory	**General**	**TP holders with children (families & UASC):** Entitled to same social assistance	**Families with children & UASC**: Benefit from social assistance measures for Moldovan citizen	Individuals benefit from social assistance and have access to the public insurance system	Individuals have access to social assistance programs and benefits under the same	**National:** MLSP; IGM; National Social Assistance Agency, National Social Insurance House	Means-tested social allowances (Ajutor Social) are available for low-income families. Additional

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Social Assistance *1951 Convention Threshold:* *Refugees lawfully staying in the territory should receive the same treatment as nationals with respect to public relief and assistance. (Art. 23).*		measures as Moldovan children (childcare benefit paid to children from 0 to 2 y.o., childbirth grant, disability benefit for children with severe disabilities from 0 to 17 y.o.). **Other TP holders**: May access specific measures funded by IOs (e.g., cash, winter aid) coordinated with MLSP/IGM. General access to national system (Law No. 547/2003) limited. The Ajutor Social programme is not available to TP holders. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 7, GD No. 1478/2002. Government decree 1478, art. 7. Art. 38[6] let. (i), Law No. 270/2008; Point 20, point 21, point 22, GD No. 21/2023 Art. 5(a), Law No. 547/2003 read in conjunction with Art. 2 para. (2) let. (b), Law No. 274/2011	children. **Adults:** No general access to national social assistance programs (Law No. 547/2003). ***Legal Source:*** Art. 28 let. (m), let. (o), let. (o[1]), let. (p), let. (r), Law No. 270/2008; Law no. 547/2003	under the same conditions as citizens. They are covered by the general provisions of Social Assistance Law No. 547/2003. Families and unaccompanied or separated children (UASC) are entitled to all support measures available to citizen children. If lacking sufficient means, individuals may request specific financial aid for a period of up to six months. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 17, Law No. 274/2011; Art. 5 let. (a), Law No. 547/2003 read in conjunction with Art. 2 para. (1) let. (d), Law No. 274/2011; Art. 33 para. (1) let. (g) and Art. 33 para. (2), Law No. 270/2008; Art. 84[4], Law No. 200/2010; Art. 19 para. (6) Law No. 489/1999	conditions as citizens, provided they meet the eligibility criteria. They are covered by the general provisions of Social Assistance Law No. 547/2003 and may have the right to various allowances, pensions, and other support measures. They may also qualify for specific state allowances, such as disability benefits under Law No. 133/2008, if the relevant requirements are fulfilled. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 17, Law No. 274/2011; Art. 5 let. (a), Law No. 547/2003 read in conjunction with Art. 2 para. (1) let. (a), Art. 17, Law No. 274/2011; Art. 84[4], Law No. 200/2010; Law No. 133/2008; Art. 19 para. (6), Law No. 489/1999	(CNAS). **Local:** Territorial Social Assistance Agency (ATAS), Chisinau Directorate for Social Assistance; Directorate for Social Assistance and Family Protection of Gagauzia.	financial support through the Energy Vulnerability Reduction Fund may be granted during the winter months through cold period aid. Vulnerable groups may also receive free meals in Social Canteens. A range of other targeted programs may be available based on assessed needs.
	Specific Support for Persons with Disabilities	Individuals holding Temporary Protection status do not have access to standard national disability benefits based on TP status alone. However, children with disabilities who have undergone the disability determination in Moldova are entitled to social assistance on the same basis as citizen children with disabilities. Access to sign language interpretation services is available through the	No entitlement to standard national disability benefits or services. Rights include potential support for accommodation adaptation and social assistance for children, on par with citizens. Access to sign language interpretation is available through ASRM and covered by the government. ***Legal Source:***	Beneficiaries of international protection have equal access to social assistance and support as citizens. They can access the national social security system, including disability allowances and related services. Sign language interpretation is available through ASRM, with costs covered by the government. ***Legal Source:***	Residence permit holders benefit from social assistance, including disability support systems, under the same conditions as citizens. They also have access to sign language interpretation through ASRM, with costs covered by the government ***Legal Source:*** Art. 17, Law No. 274/2011;	**National Level:** MLSP; IGM; National Social Assistance Agency. **Local Level:** ATAS / Chisinau & Gagauzia counterparts; STAS; National Council for Determining Disability and Work Capacity.	Depending on eligibility, individuals may receive disability pensions (contributory) or State Social Allowance (non-contributory). Care allowances are available for caregivers of persons with severe disabilities. Additional support includes compensation for transport costs, limited access to rehabilitation and assistive technologies, social

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		ASRM and is covered by the government. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 38[6] let. (i), Law No. 270/2008	Art. 28 let. (n), Art. 28 let. (r), Law No. 270/2008	Art. 6, Art. 17, Law No. 274/2011; Art. 5 let. (a), Art. 7 let. (i), Law No. 547/2003	Art. 5 let. (a), Art. 7 let. (i), Law No. 547/2003		canteens, and sign language interpretation.
	Specific Support for Older Persons	TP holders are not entitled to the standard national old-age assistance scheme. **Legal Source:** Point 20, GD No. 21/2023	Asylum seekers have no entitlement to the standard national old-age assistance scheme. However, their rights may include access to accommodation adaptation support. **Legal Source:** Art. 28 let. (n), Law No. 270/2008 (Accommodation adaptation)	Beneficiaries of international protection have equal access to social assistance as citizens and are covered under the general system. Eligibility for old-age pensions or allowances (e.g., under Law 121/2001) depends on meeting standard criteria, such as required contribution periods. Those without sufficient means may request financial aid for a period of up to six months. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 6, Art. 17, Law No. 274/2011; Art. 5 let. (a), Art. 7 let. (h), Law No. 547/2003; Law No. 121/2001 Art. 33 para. (1) let. (e), para. 2), Law No. 270/2008	Residence permit holders benefit from social assistance, including support for older persons, under the same conditions as citizens. Eligibility for state pensions and allowances depends on meeting standard criteria, such as contribution history and age requirements. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 17, Law No. 274/2011 Art. 5 let. (a), Art. 7 let. (h), Law No. 547/2003; Law No. 121/2001	**National Level:** MLSP; IGM; National Social Assistance Agency; CNAS. **Local Level:** ATAS / Chisinau & Gagauzia counterparts; STAS; CTAS.	Old-Age Pension: available at retirement age with a minimum of 15 years of contributions. Anticipated Pension: available with a longer contribution period. Free meals are provided in social canteens. Home care is free for eligible individuals; otherwise, it is fee-based. Rehabilitation center services are free or discounted for pensioners.
	Specific Support for Families with Children	Families & UASC benefit from all social assistance measures granted to Moldovan citizen children. Includes access to services via ATAS/STAS and specific UASC procedures. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 38[6] let. (i), Law No. 270/2008; Point 6, point 21, point 22, Annex, GD No. 21/2023	Families & UASC benefit from all social assistance measures granted to Moldovan citizen children. Specific protection & legal representation for UASC. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 14 , Art. 24, Art. 28 let. (r), Law No. 270/2008	Families & UASC benefit from all social assistance measures granted to Moldovan citizen children. Equal access to assistance. Specific integration measures & inclusion in child protection system for UASC. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 14 , 33 para. (1) let. (g), Law No. 270/2008; Art. 6, Art. 17, Art. 28, Law No. 274/2011; Art. 5 let. (a), Art. 7 let. (a), let. (b), let. (f), let. (g), let. (j), Law No. 547/2003	Benefit from social assistance, including family/child support, under same conditions as Moldovan citizens. UASC covered by general child protection & social assistance system. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 17, Art. 19, Law No. 274/2011; Art. 5 let. (a), Art. 7 let. (a), let. (b), let. (f), let. (g), let. (j), Law No. 547/2003	**National Level:** MLSP; IGM. **Local Level:** ATAS / Chisinau & Gagauzia counterparts; STAS; Local Guardianship Authority.	Various allowances: a) one-time birth allowance; b) monthly childcare up to age 2; c) monthly child-raising (options for insured); d) monthly support for twins/multiples up to age 3; e) one-time for adoptable child custody; f) one-time for adopted/foster child; g) monthly for adopted/foster child over 3. Free meals in Social Canteens.

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Child Protection *CRC Threshold (Art 22): Refugee children (accompanied or UASC) must receive appropriate protection & humanitarian assistance to enjoy rights.*	Children (incl. UASC) covered by national child protection system without discrimination, same as citizen children. Equal access to protection services & social assistance. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 2, Art. 30 para. (2), Law No. 370/2023; Art. 2, Art. 8 let. (l), Law No. 140/2013; Art. 38[6] let. (i), Law No. 270/2008; Point 4[1] (as referenced), point 21, Annex, GD No. 21/2023 GD 270/2014	Children (incl. UASC) covered by national child protection system without discrimination, same as Moldovan citizen children. Equal access to protection services & social assistance. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 2, Art. 30 , Law No. 370/2023; Art. 2, Art. 8 let. (l), Law No. 140/2013; Art. 14 , Art. 24, Art. 28 let. (r), Art. 66 para. (2), Law No. 270/2008 GD 270/2014	Children (incl. UASC) covered by national child protection system without discrimination, same as Moldovan citizen children. Equal access to protection services & social assistance. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 2, Art. 30 para. (2), Law No. 370/2023; Art. 2, Law No. 140/2013; Art. 14 , Art. 33 para. (1) let. (g), Law No. 270/2008; Art. 6, Art. 17, Art. 28, Law No. 274/2011; Art. 5 let. (a), Art. 7 let. (a), Law No. 547/2003 GD 270/2014	Children covered by the national child protection system without discrimination, same as citizen children (protection, guardianship, social assistance for vulnerable). ***Legal Source:*** Art. 2, Law No. 370/2023; Art. 2, Law No. 140/2013; Art. 17, Art. 19, Law No. 274/2011; Art. 5 let. (a), Art. 7 let. (a), Law No. 547/2003 GD 270/2014	**National Level:** MLSP; National Council for Child Rights Protection; Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA); Ombudsman for Children's Rights. **Local Level:** ATAS / Chisinau & Gagauzia counterparts; STAS; Local Guardianship Authority (Mayor's office).	Protection for children at risk (assessment, assistance, alternative care, prevention). Services have limited scope and operational constraints (e.g., underfunding).
Protection Against Violence, including GBV *1951 Refugee Convention Threshold:* *While not explicitly referring to GBV, the Convention must be interpreted in light of its protective purpose and in accordance with non-discrimination (Art. 3) and the obligation to ensure access to rights and safety. GBV may also form the basis for recognition of refugee status.* *CEDAW Threshold (Articles 2, 6, 12, 15; General*	Fully covered by Law No. 45/2007. Right to access all protection measures & services (reporting, restraining/protection orders, legal aid, medical exams, assistance centers/shelter). ***Legal Source:*** Art. 6, Art. 11, Law No. 45/2007	Fully covered by Law No. 45/2007. Right to access all protection measures & services (reporting, restraining/protection orders, legal aid, medical exams, assistance centers/shelter). ***Legal Source:*** Art. 6, Art. 11, Law No. 45/2007	Fully covered by Law No. 45/2007. Right to access all protection measures & services. Law No. 274/2011 reinforces right to equal assistance as citizens if victims of violence. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 6, Art. 11, Law No. 45/2007 Art. 6, Law No. 274/2011	Fully covered by Law No. 45/2007. Right to access all protection measures & services (reporting, restraining/protection orders, legal aid, medical exams, assistance centers/shelter). ***Legal Source:*** Art. 6, Art. 11, Law No. 45/2007	**National Level:** National Agency for Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence; MLSP; MIA; Ministry of Health, MoJ. **Local Level:** ATAS / Chisinau & Gagauzia counterparts; Local Guardianship Authority; Police Departments, Multidisciplinary Teams (Government Decision No. 228/2014).	Laws provide protection/restraining orders. Shelters and support services available but may be limited/underfunded. Hotlines offer support/referrals.

Rights / Entitlements	TP Holders	Asylum Seekers	Refugees and Beneficiaries of International Protection	Residence Permit Holders *(Work, Family Reunification and Permanent Residence, Study)*	Responsible Entity	Available Assistance to Citizens of the Republic of Moldova
Recommendation No. 19 & No. 35): *States must take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination and gender-based violence against women, including refugee and asylum-seekers.*						
Access legal assistance *1951 Convention Threshold:* *Refugees should have free access to the courts of law and should enjoy the same treatment as nationals in matters pertaining to legal assistance and exemption from certain legal costs. (Art. 16)*	Eligible for state-guaranteed legal aid (Law No. 198/2007). Primary aid (info, advice, drafting) regardless of income. Qualified aid (representation) if income below threshold, OR regardless of income in specific situations (victim of domestic violence, sex crimes, torture, trafficking, severe disability, certain civil cases). ***Legal Source:*** Art. 6 para. (2), Art. 15, Art. 19, Art. 20 let. (a), let. (f), let. (g), Art. 21 para. (1), Law No. 198/2007; Art. 6, Art. 11 para. (5), Law No. 45/2007	Eligible for state-guaranteed legal aid (Law No. 198/2007). Specific right to qualified aid regardless of income for entire asylum procedure. For other matters: primary aid regardless of income; qualified aid if income below threshold OR regardless of income in specific situations (victim of domestic violence, sex crimes, torture, trafficking, severe disability, certain civil cases). ***Legal Source:*** Art. 6 para. (2), Art. 15, Art. 19, Art. 20 let. (a), let. (f), let. (g), let. (h), let. (j), Art. 21 para. (1), Law No. 198/2007; Art. 28 let. (f), Law No. 270/2008; Art. 6, Art. 11 para. (5), Law No. 45/2007	Eligible for state-guaranteed legal aid (Law No. 198/2007), reinforcing right to free access to court/admin assistance (Law 270/2008). Primary aid regardless of income. Qualified aid if income below threshold, OR regardless of income in specific situations (victim of domestic violence, sex crimes, torture, trafficking, severe disability, certain civil cases). ***Legal Source:*** Art. 6 para. (2), Art. 15, Art. 19, Art. 20 let. (a), let. (f), let. (g), let. (j), Art. 21 para. (1), Law No. 198/2007; Art. 33 para. (1) let. (k), Law No. 270/2008; Art. 6, Art. 11 para. (5), Law No. 45/2007	Eligible for state-guaranteed legal aid (Law No. 198/2007). Primary aid regardless of income. Qualified aid generally if income below threshold AND case meets complexity criteria, OR regardless of income in specific situations (victim of domestic violence, sex crimes, torture, trafficking, severe disability, certain civil cases). ***Legal Source:*** Art. 6 para. (2), Art. 15, Art. 19, Art. 20 let. (a), let. (f), let. (g), let. (j), Art. 21 para. (1), Law No. 198/2007 Art. 6, Art. 11 para. (5), Law No. 45/2007	**National Level:** National Council for State-Guaranteed Legal Aid (CNAJGS). **Local Level:** Territorial Offices of CNAJGS - Lawyers providing state aid; Paralegals; NGOs (like CDA).	Entitled to state-guaranteed legal aid. Primary aid (advice) regardless of income. Qualified aid (representation) mainly for low income or specific mandatory cases (certain criminal defense, victims of serious crimes).
Travel Documents **1951 Convention Threshold:** **Refugees who are lawfully staying in the territory must be issued a Convention Travel Document (CTD) for travel abroad, unless an individualised national-**	Beneficiaries of temporary protection are issued an identity document which grants them permission to remain on the territory of the Republic of Moldova. The law does not explicitly provide for the issuance of a travel document for international travel to this group. **Legal Source:**	Asylum-seekers are issued a temporary identity document for use within the Republic of Moldova during their asylum procedure. The law does not provide for the issuance of a travel document for international travel to this category. **Legal Source:**	Refugees and other beneficiaries of international protection are issued an identity card and, upon request, may obtain a travel document that allows them to travel outside the territory of the Republic of Moldova. Legal Source: Law No. 270/2008: Art. 37 para. (1) and (2).	Foreigners with residence permits generally use their own national passports for travel. A temporary travel document may be issued to a resident foreigner stranded abroad who cannot obtain a document from their own country. Legal Source: Art. 76; Art. 77, Law No. 200/2010	**National Level:** General Inspectorate for Migration (IGM), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)	

Rights / Entitlements	TP Holders	Asylum Seekers	Refugees and Beneficiaries of International Protection	Residence Permit Holders *(Work, Family Reunification and Permanent Residence, Study)*	Responsible Entity	Available Assistance to Citizens of the Republic of Moldova
security or public-order reason justifies refusal. (Art. 28)	Art. 38[2] para. (3); Art. 38[6] let. c), Law No. 270/2008:	Art. 28 let. j); Art. 32 para. (1), Law No. 270/2008				
Protection Against Refoulement *1951 Refugee Convention Threshold:* *States must not expel or return a refugee to a territory where their life or freedom would be threatened on account of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion. This is a core non-derogable principle of international refugee law. (Art. 33)*	Right to not be returned to a country where there is a risk of danger to his life, freedom or physical or mental integrity. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 11 para. (2); Art. 38(6) let. a), Law No. 270/2008	Right not to be expelled, extradited, or returned from the border or the territory of the Republic of Moldova until the asylum application is resolved by an irrevocable decision. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 11 para. (1); Art. 28 let. a), Law No. 270/2008	Right not to be expelled, extradited, or returned to a country or territory where there may be a threat to his life or freedom or in which he may be subjected to torture, inhuman or degrading treatment. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 11 para. (2); Art. 33 para. (1) let. l), Law No. 270/2008	Prohibition of removal or expulsion to a state where there are justified fears that the foreigner's life is in danger or that he will be subjected to torture, inhuman, or degrading treatment, or if the removal is prohibited by international treaties. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 60 para. (1) let. e); Art. 63 para. (1), Law No. 200/2010	**National level:** General Inspectorate for Migration (IGM), Border Police, Courts of Law	
Family Reunification *1951 Convention Threshold:* *The principle of family unity, recommended in the Final Act of the 1951 Convention, is intended to both maintain the unity of families who arrive together and to facilitate the reunification of those separated by flight. The minimum threshold for the family unit includes the spouse and minor children. In practice, this is often extended to include other dependents, such as*	The law does not establish a specific procedure for beneficiaries of temporary protection to reunify with family members who are outside the country. The principle of family unity applies to family members who arrive together and are granted protection in Moldova.	The law does not establish a specific procedure for asylum-seekers to reunify with family members from abroad while their application is pending. The principle of family unity applies to family members who seek protection together on the territory. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 3 (definition of "family members"), Law No. 270/2008	Beneficiaries of international protection have the right to family unity and may request family reunification. For this purpose, the law defines a "family member" as the spouse, dependent unmarried children under 18 (including adopted children), and the parents of the spouses who live together with them. The procedure allows a beneficiary to apply to bring their spouse and children from abroad to the territory of the Republic of Moldova. ***Legal Source:*** Law No. 270/2008: Art. 3; Art. 12; Art. 74 para. (1); Art. 75 para. (1).	Foreigners holding a provisional or permanent residence permit may apply for family reunification for their spouse, unmarried minor children, dependent unmarried adult children who cannot support themselves for medical reasons, and dependent parents. The process requires obtaining a "Notice for family reunification" and providing proof of adequate housing and financial means. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 19 para. (2) let. d); Art. 28; Art. 38, Law No. 200/2010	**National Level:** General Inspectorate for Migration (IGM), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)	

Rights / Entitlements	TP Holders	Asylum Seekers	Refugees and Beneficiaries of International Protection	Residence Permit Holders *(Work, Family Reunification and Permanent Residence, Study)*	Responsible Entity	Available Assistance to Citizens of the Republic of Moldova
aged parents living in the same household.						
Access to long-term residence and citizenship *1951 Convention Threshold:* *States should facilitate the assimilation and naturalization of refugees by expediting naturalization procedures and reducing the costs associated with them. (Art. 34)* EU Benchmark: *Under the EU Long-Term Residence Directive, refugees may apply for long-term residence after 5 years.* *Many EU countries offer facilitated citizenship for refugees within 5 years of recognized status.*	TP does not provide a direct pathway to permanent residence or citizenship. Individuals must first transition to another legal status and subsequently meet the applicable requirements for permanent residency or naturalization. **Legal Source:** Art. 17 para. (1) let. (a), Law No. 1024/2000)	Asylum seeker status is provisional. Individuals must first be granted international protection, either refugee or humanitarian status. Once recognized, they may qualify for citizenship under a reduced residency requirement of eight years, in accordance with Law No. 1024/2000. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 17 para. (1) let. (a), Law No. 1024/2000	**Permanent Residence:** In Moldova, eligibility for permanent residence generally requires at least five years of continuous legal residence, along with proof of sufficient means of subsistence, adequate housing, knowledge of the official language, and a clean criminal record. **Citizenship:** Refugees may benefit from a facilitated naturalization procedure, which reduces the required period of continuous legal residence to eight years, compared to ten years for most other applicants. In addition to the residency requirement, applicants must demonstrate proficiency in the official language, knowledge of the Constitution, the ability to support themselves financially, and a clean criminal record. Shorter residency periods may apply in certain cases, such as for children, persons married to Moldovan citizens, or other categories established by law. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 17 para. (1) let. (a), Law No. 1024/2000 Art. 17 para. (1) let. (c) and let. (d), Art. 18, Law No. 1024/2000	**Temporary Residents:** May apply for permanent residence after meeting the required conditions, which typically include a minimum period of legal stay (often three or more years, depending on the grounds), proof of adequate housing, knowledge of the official language, and a clean criminal record. **Permanent Residents:** Eligible to apply for citizenship through naturalization, which generally requires ten years of continuous legal residence, along with other criteria such as language proficiency, knowledge of the Constitution, and sufficient means of support. Shorter residency periods may apply in specific cases, such as marriage to a citizen or for children under 18. ***Legal Source:*** Art. 17 para. (1) let. (a), let. (b), let. (c), let. (d), Law No. 1024/2000	**National Level:** Public Services Agency (ASP); Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA); IGM; Commission on Citizenship Issues (Presidential). **Local Level:** Territorial structures of ASP; Diplomatic/Consular missions (abroad).	Citizenship acquired mainly by birth, recognition, or naturalization (typically 10 years residence + other criteria). Permanent residence obtained after meeting specific temporary residence duration and other criteria.

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

Relevant Legislation for Refugee Protection and Inclusion in Moldova

Area/Topic	Legislation
Asylum and Temporary Protection	Law No. 270 of 18-12-2008 regarding asylum in the Republic of Moldova
Asylum and Temporary Protection	Government Decision No. 21 of 18-01-2023 on granting temporary protection to displaced persons from Ukraine
Asylum and Temporary Protection	Order No. 143 of 28-02-2023 regarding the medical services granted to beneficiaries of temporary protection
Migration Governance and Coordination	Government Decision No. 947 of 03-10-2018 regarding the establishment of the Commission for the coordination of activities in the field of migration and asylum
Legal Status and Integration of Foreigners	Law No. 200 of 16-07-2010 regarding the regime of foreigners in the Republic of Moldova
Legal Status and Integration of Foreigners	Law No. 274 of 27-12-2011 regarding the integration of foreigners in the Republic of Moldova
Legal Aid	Law No. 198 of 26-07-2007 on State-guaranteed legal aid
Health	Law No. 411 of 28-03-1995 on health protection
Health	Law No. 1585/1998 on Compulsory Health Insurance
Health	Government Decision No. 1246 of 19-12-2018 on granting/suspending the status of an insured person in the mandatory health insurance system
Health	Government Decision No. 1387 of 10-12-2007 on the Approval of the Single Program of Mandatory Health Insurance
Health	Law No. 1593 of 26-12-2002 on the Amount, Procedure, and Terms of Payment of Mandatory Health Insurance Premiums
Education	Code No. 152 of 17-07-2014 Education Code of the Republic of Moldova
Education	Government Decision No. 222 of 26-03-2024 regarding the approval of the Regulation on adult education
Education	Order No. 1126 of 08-08-2024 regarding the amendment of instructions for integrating refugee children from Ukraine into general education institutions
Housing and Accommodation	Law No. 75 of 30-04-2015 regarding housing
Housing and Accommodation	Government Decision No. 1023 of 28-12-2012 regarding the approval of the Accommodation Center Regulations
Housing and Accommodation	Order No. 182 of 20-12-2023 regarding the approval of regulations for Temporary Accommodation Centers
Social Protection	Law No. 547 of 25-12-2003 on social assistance
Social Protection	Government Decision No. 957 of 06-12-2023 on the establishment and operation of territorial social assistance agencies
Social Protection	Law No. 121 of 05-03-2001 on additional social protection for certain categories
Social Protection	Law No. 156 of 14-10-1998 on the public pension system
Social Protection	Government Decision No. 1478 of 15-11-2002 on allowances for families with children
Social Protection	Law No. 489/1999 on the public social insurance system
Social Protection	Law No. 105/2018 on employment promotion and unemployment insurance
Social Protection	Law No. 133/2008 on social aid (Ajutor Social)
Energy and Economic Support	Government Decision No. 704 of 10-05-2022 on the regulation for assigning energy vulnerability categories
Energy and Economic Support	Law No. 241 of 28-07-2022 on the Energy Vulnerability Reduction Fund
Labor and Entrepreneurship	Code No. 154 of 28-03-2003 Labor Code of the Republic of Moldova
Labor and Entrepreneurship	Law No. 93 of 15-09-1998 on the entrepreneur's patent
Labor and Entrepreneurship	Law No. 160/2011 on the regulation of entrepreneurial activity by authorization
Child Protection	Law No. 140 of 14-06-2013 on the special protection of children at risk and children separated from parents
Child Protection	Law No. 370 of 30-11-2023 on the rights of the child
Child Protection	Government Decision No. 338 of 31-05-2023 on the National Council for the Protection of Children's Rights
Child Protection	Government Decision No. 347 of 01-06-2022 approving the National Child Protection Program (2022-2026)
Child Protection	Government Decision No. 7 of 20-01-2016 approving the framework regulation for the Commission for children in difficulty
Child Protection	Government Decision No. 270 of 08-04-2014 approving the instructions on the intersectoral cooperation mechanism for the identification, assessment, referral, assistance and monitoring of child victims and potential victims of violence, neglect, exploitation and trafficking
Child Protection	Government Decision No. 1478 of 15-11-2022 regarding allowances for families with children
Prevention and Protection Against Violence	Law No. 45 of 01-03-2007 on the prevention and combating of family violence
Prevention and Protection Against Violence	Law No. 121/2012 on ensuring equality

Prevention and Protection Against Violence	Government Decision No. 332 of 31-05-2023 approving the National Program on the prevention and combating of violence against women and family violence (2023-2027)
Prevention and Protection Against Violence	Government Decision No. 926 of 29-11-2023 on the organization and operation of the National Agency for Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence