Population figures

148,995 Ukrainian refugees in Moldova:

Children 40% | Female 58% | Older persons 13%

~ 2.4M arrivals since 24 February 2022

Legal status in the country

86,585	citizens of Ukraine granted Temporary Protection.
6,264	citizens of Ukraine granted residence permits, either permanent or temporary.
778*	individuals are in the asylum system, including statelessness determination applicants.
732	recognized refugees and beneficiaries of humanitarian protection.

* As of 30 November 2025

9,499
refugees received cash assistance this month

15,200
refugees supported with legal assistance

17,845
refugees provided with information by UNHCR

1,600
refugees supported with socio-economic inclusion, including livelihoods

2025: Year in Review

On 7 December, the M-Legal team and partners delivered free medical services in Ungheni, reaching over 60 Ukrainian refugees and host community members. Consultations were provided by dentists, cardiologists, endocrinologists, and neurologists, supported by a mobile dental clinic. Participants also received hygiene and dental kits. Implemented under the Health Without Borders project, the initiative improved access to quality healthcare for vulnerable people with UNHCR support.

> I want people to stop believing that women exist only to cook and have children. We know how to cook, and we know how to take care for things. But we can also lead, create, and transform lives. Enough of the "woman must." We have the right to freedom, happiness, and our own voice. I want every little girl to know that her life belongs solely to her.
>
> Girl Shine programme participant

Building Institutional Capacity and Pathways for Refugee Inclusion

In 2025, UNHCR strengthened Moldova's refugee response by reinforcing the national protection system and building sustainable institutional capacity. Through legislative engagement, UNHCR provided legal and policy recommendations on Temporary Protection Directive, citizenship, asylum, and migration legislation, ensuring alignment with EU and international standards. In partnership with the Council of Europe and national actors, UNHCR advanced statelessness mapping, policy dialogue and interinstitutional coordination, contributing to efforts to reduce statelessness.

A major milestone was the adoption of the National Programme on the Phased Integration of Foreigners, establishing structured pathways for inclusion and access to essential services. UNHCR and RRP partners supported its operationalization through the development of the Roadmap for the Integration of Refugees into Social Protection and the Partner Action Plan, translating policy commitments into concrete measures. In parallel, UNHCR delivered eight targeted trainings for 100 legal, border, and social protection professionals on access to asylum, legal residence, judicial review, and international protection at borders, reinforcing case management and compliance with non-refoulement principle. Together, these interventions strengthened legal safeguards for refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons, while reinforcing a more inclusive protection framework that benefits Moldovan institutions and society as a whole.

Cash Assistance for Vulnerable Refugees

Amid funding constraints in 2025, UNHCR accelerated the phasing out of its multi-purpose cash assistance in line with the transition toward national social protection systems. To ensure that limited resources reached those with the most acute needs, a comprehensive reassessment was conducted in close collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP). Refugees were informed and consulted throughout the process through information sessions, community outreach, and feedback channels, promoting transparency and accountability.

A total of 6,682 households (14,010 refugees) were interviewed, with 85 per cent participation rate. The reassessment confirmed persistent socio-economic vulnerabilities among cash assistance recipients, underscoring its life-saving role. The caseload included a high proportion of dependents, with 65 per cent women, 35 per cent children, and 27 per cent older persons. Based on the results, 4,896 households (9,349 individuals) were prioritized for continued assistance. Field-level collaboration enabled MLSP staff to gain practical experience with UNHCR's targeting methodology, data collection tools, and enrolment systems, strengthening national capacity to deliver inclusive social assistance.

Promoting Community-Based Engagement

In 2025, UNHCR supported five community-based organizations through the Small Grants Programme, providing up to USD 12,000 per grant to advance inclusion, protection and local resilience. The grants enabled locally-led responses addressing priority needs, including the rehabilitation of early childhood space, delivery of mobile healthcare services in underserved rural areas, Gender-Based Violence prevention and response, peer-to-peer capacity building, and vocational and entrepreneurial skills development for women and youth. By empowering local actors, particularly Roma-led and youth-led organizations, the programme strengthened community ownership, expanded access to essential services, and fostered sustainable, locally-driven solutions for refugees and host communities.

Expanding Access to Education for Refugee Children

In 2025, UNHCR, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Research, UNICEF, and the Education Working Group, supported national efforts to expand inclusive access to quality education for refugee children and youth from Ukraine. Interventions focused on enrolment, language acquisition, monitoring of online learning, and access to vocational and higher education. UNHCR and UNICEF provided technical support to operationalize Temporary Protection provisions by integrating education components into the TP extension process, strengthening the mapping and follow-up of children at risk of being out of school. Advocacy with national authorities improved access to post-secondary education, resulting in the removal of notarized document requirements, the introduction of flexible Romanian language examination arrangements and equal tuition conditions for refugee students in vocational education.

By November 2025, 3,623 refugee children were enrolled in Moldovan formal education, including 793 in pre-school and 2,830 in primary and secondary schools, marking a continued increase in enrolment. An additional 996 children accessed non-formal education, while 13.5 per cent of university-aged refugees enrolled in Moldovan universities.

Complementary support, including school furniture, education kits, vouchers and school supplies to vulnerable refugee children, reduced material barriers to school attendance and strengthened inclusive learning environments for refugee and host community children.

In December 2025, UNHCR, in partnership with CONTACT Centre, concluded a Capacity-Building Programme for civil society organizations supporting refugee protection and integration. A total of 34 organizations and initiative groups enhanced their skills in governance, project planning, advocacy, financing, and protection. The programme strengthened participants' capacity to provide accountable, sustainable, and community-based support, contributing to improved protection and social cohesion for both refugees and host communities.

Strengthening GBV Prevention and Survivor-Centred Response

In 2025, UNHCR strengthened gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response in Moldova, enhancing protection, empowerment, and access to rights for refugees, particularly women, children, adolescents, and Roma communities, while reinforcing national and local systems. UNHCR advocacy led to the inclusion of refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons in amendments to Government Decisions on GBV and anti-trafficking, expanding access to helplines, shelters, rehabilitation, counselling, and anti-trafficking services.

A UNHCR-supported study on barriers to GBV and sexual exploitation and abuse disclosure informed national policy and practice, while guidance on technology-facilitated GBV strengthened frontline response.

Capacity building reached 428 professionals nationwide, including shelter staff, social service providers, paralegals, and civil society organizations, improving survivor-centred approaches, safe referral pathways, and case management. UNHCR also strengthened Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse mechanisms, introduced the Misconduct Disclosure Scheme, and enhanced monitoring and referral systems to ensure timely and coordinated support.

Community-based prevention initiatives, including the Girl Shine programme and small grants in Riscani, engaged adolescents and women in empowerment, livelihoods, and GBV awareness, fostering resilience, social cohesion, and sustainable protection outcomes. These efforts collectively improved refugee access to services, strengthened national capacity, and advanced inclusive, localized GBV responses across Moldova.

Closing Partnerships - With Thanks

UNHCR Moldova would like to sincerely acknowledge the valuable contributions of **Tarna Rom**, **Female Support Force**, **Humanitarian Aid Centre of Jewish Community**, **INTERSOS** and the **National Centre for Child Abuse Prevention** whose collaboration concluded in 2025.

Your dedication, expertise, and commitment have been instrumental in advancing our shared objectives and achieving meaningful impact. We are grateful for their partnership and the positive difference you have made, and we wish you all continued success in your future endeavours!

UNHCR is grateful for the support provided by donors who have contributed to Moldova, as well as those who have contributed to global UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds:

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

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

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