



Moldova: Situation over-view

With the vast majority of refugees in Moldova being women (65%) and children (36%), hence **the protection of women and girls** is of utmost concern. A significant proportion consists of women-head of households, single women, adolescent girls, older women, who are at **heightened risk of GBV**. Urgent actions are required to prevent gender-based violence (GBV) and respond to its life-threatening consequences.

People fleeing from conflicts are at higher risk of conflict-related sexual violence, sexual exploitation, and abuse by humanitarian actors, trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, as well as pre-existing and increased displacement related risks of intimate partner violence. Risks of GBV are exacerbated in the context of informal shelter, reception and transit facilities, refugee accommodation centres, private arrangements for accommodation and transportation from the border and movement to other countries.



Easter activities with refugees and host community families.
Photo Credit: Marioarei



ACHIEVEMENTS- PROGRESS MADE SO FAR

- Through the Refugee Coordination Forum, the GBV sub-working group has established and **strengthened GBV coordination**. The SWG currently includes 43 government agencies, NGOs, and UN agency partners. SWG national member organizations are at the forefront of the refugee response.
- **Four GBV referral pathways have been developed and rolled out**, covering all regions of Moldova. The aim is to increase access to vital support for survivors, including lifesaving multi-sectoral response services, including health, legal, psychosocial support, safe shelter, and core assistance such as cash assistance, EU air transfers, transport assistance.
- **212 frontline responders trained on prevention and response to GBV and trafficking in persons**: the GBV SWG rolled out adapted training tools on GBV core concepts and safe disclosure. The training orientates frontline humanitarian responders on survivor centred referrals. In May, UNHCR and UNFPA trained 60 staff and volunteers from different humanitarian sectors using the newly adapted GBV essential guidance and tools.
- **68,000 refugees reached with an information campaign to combat trafficking**: UNHCR, IOM, La Strada and Moldova for Peace collaborated to produce and distribute anti-trafficking posters which

are being distributed at key transit and host community locations across the county.

- **Safety and risk reduction**: site safety audit tools developed to ensure the safety of the refugees Tailored GBV risk mitigation and anti-trafficking measures have been integrated, with emphasis on improving safety in high-risk locations such as the bus hub in Palanca and Refugee Accommodation Centres. To date, over 40 site safety audits conducted by the GBV SWG partners.
- **Women and Girls Safe Space services**: UNFPA has established Orange Safe Spaces in two key refugee transit locations- Palanca bus hub and MoldExpo accommodation centre. The new safe spaces provide crucial GBV and sexual and reproductive health services (including post-rape treatment). UNFPA has distributed 8,000 dignity kits to women and girls, reaching 24,000 women and girls since the beginning of the refugee response.
- Casa Marioarei, a local women-led NGO, organized **Easter activities to promote peaceful co-existence**. The events were attended by 416 individuals from refugees and host communities in Chisinau, Ungheni and Falesti and allowed women and girls to connect with host communities and service providers and find crucial protection information.
- **GBV Awareness campaign**: As part of the international Denim Day sexual assault awareness campaign, La Strada, in collaboration with UN Women, shared video materials to raise awareness about ending sexual violence in the humanitarian refugee context and how to get support through the La Strada hotline.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y9vqgdWTRYs>
- **Assessments**: ActionAid conducted and shared results from the Rapid Gender Analysis of Moldova. The analysis highlights the key GBV risks, response gaps in

services, and considerations including at-risk groups, such as Roma and LGBTI persons, in the response. The full report can be accessed here: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/92392>



GAPS AND WAY FORWARD

- Strengthen and build capacities of frontline and specialized actors and community outreach, awareness-raising, safe spaces and mobile services for refugees and host communities in at risk areas such as border, transit locations, and private and refugee accommodation as well as across the country.
- Support for national and local systems to scale up response and capacity, ensuring access to holistic survivor centred GBV services for refugees and host communities.
- Advocacy messages about Gender equality, prevention, and response to gender-based violence in a refugee context in Moldova.
- Mainstreaming GBV prevention and risk mitigation through ongoing safety audits to inform emergency preparedness and response.



BRIEF - KEY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES & WORK AREAS

Effective coordination and planning

- Planning and implementation of the Regional Response Plan and Gender-Based Violence sub-working strategy through joint workplan
- Collaboration with local actors' women-led organizations
- Transfer co-leadership to a local organization.
- Joint assessments and trend analysis
- Joint advocacy, communication materials and campaigns



UNFPA women in a refugee accommodation centre in Chisinau Photo credit: UNFPA

Access to lifesaving GBV prevention & multi-sectoral response programming

- Support, link, and complement existing national systems and capacities
- Safe access to holistic case management, legal counselling, psychosocial support safety services and women and girls' safe spaces (WGSS)
- Access to clinical management of rape
- Response services are included in referral pathways and guided by SOPs
- Community outreach & awareness raising
- Capacity development and expansion

Integration of GBV risk mitigation measures

- Cross-sector collaboration
- Tools, capacity development and sector specific planning on mainstreaming GBV risk mitigation

About GBV Sub-working Group: UNHCR in collaboration with Authorities and UNFPA leads the GBV response for refugees in Moldova. The GBV SWG has a strong network of 43 partners including representatives from the Department for Gender Equality of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, local organizations (including Life Without Violence Action Coalition representing 25 local women organizations and GBV providers), INGOs, UN agencies, and intergovernmental organizations.

Members: Law Center of Advocates | La Strada | Women Law Center | Women's Initiatives | Life Without Violence Action Coalition representing 25 local women organizations and GBV service providers | Moldova for Peace | INTERSOS | Plan International | MSF | Oxfam, Caritas Germany | ACTED, APS-Action Aid | Mercy Corps, REACH | IsrAid | Catholic Relief Services | WeWorld | Medical Teams | IRC | Help Age | IMC | Project Hope | Church World Service | Voice Amplified | War Child Holland | French Red Cross | HIAS | BR | UNHCR | UNFPA | UN Women | UNICEF | IOM | UNDP | UN AIDS | OHCHR, WHO | OSCE

SWG group meeting link: The GBV SWG meets every Thursday at 2 pm.
<https://unfpa.zoom.us/j/87952733936?pwd=Y25LRUQ0OS9rcEI2K2ZEZINuQy9RUT09>
 (English- Romanian- Russian interpretation)

Data portal - Moldova inter-agency response:
<https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10784>