

INCLUSION AND LIVELIHOODS

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“How is Life” of refugees from Ukraine and Moldova citizens after the war started

Refugees from Ukraine and locals from Moldova show empathy in this crisis and are mainly ready to provide support. Still, they do not know how to help or do not believe they have the ability to help. Most people think they need more straightforward rules and processes to improve the situation. The conclusions are based on the results of the “**How is Life**” **longitudinal assessment run by UNDP Moldova** from April to June this year.

Most refugees focus on getting through the day-to-day and care about their safety, food, and living conditions. About 27% of the respondents are tentatively planning for the near future.

Surprisingly, many Moldovan citizens are focused on a survivalist mentality of getting through each day, with comparatively less thought being given to the past and future. This survivalist mentality was only 9% higher in refugees escaping the war zone. The burden of the current compounded crisis is perceived by the local population as much as the refugee population. Addressing it requires a comprehensive approach that considers not only meeting the refugees’ immediate needs but also developing interventions that address the economic and social fragility and risk of further degradation of the population’s quality of life.

Generally speaking, people consider the situation stabilized, but a slight majority still thought the worst is yet to come.



Photo credit: UNDP Moldova

The **Inclusion and Livelihoods Working Group** is one of several Working Groups of the country-level refugee coordination structure set up by the **Government of Moldova** and **UNHCR**, with participation of a wide array of public and private, central and local institutions and stakeholders in the context of the Ukraine refugee crisis. The Inclusion and Livelihoods Working Group is **chaired by the State Chancellery of the Republic of Moldova** and **UNDP**. The mandate of the WG is to enable a coordinated approach among partners working on livelihoods and inclusion topics, articulate and complement each other’s work and allow for **a coherent response in line with the mandate of each organization**. The work undertaken by the Inclusion and Livelihoods Working Group is a **prime example of the humanitarian – development nexus**: addressing crisis response needs, while considering longer-term resilience-building priorities that benefit refugees, returning migrants and host communities.

Updates on inclusion and livelihoods interventions by our members

- **UNDP Moldova** is financing VET courses for 60 refugees from Chisinau and Balti (of which 58 are women) in the following areas: manicure, hair styling, baking, bartending, cosmetology, and tailoring. In addition, each student receives a lump-sum scholarship of MDL 2,200.
- **People in Need NGO** intends to design a new pilot project on livelihood and inclusion with a budget of approximative EUR 500,000. The “Skills for employment” program will focus on paying private companies to provide vocational training to refugees, supporting job creation, requalification, subsidizing positions, support to self-employment, and as a cross-cutting issue - including people with disabilities.
- **WeWorld NGO**, together with a local partner, recruited a team of psychologists, social workers, and mediators for PSS support in 2 RACs in Chisinau and Criuleni. The mobile unit will be active soon and will serve refugees hosted in the Moldavian family or staying in rental houses in Chisinau.

How do local authorities deal with the refugee crisis?

A recent **capacity and needs assessment covering close to 500 local public authorities (LPAs)** (except for Chisinau city) – representing 55% of all LPAs - completed recently by UNDP, CALM, IOM, and UNHCR with support of the State Chancellery indicated that over 50% need help with information sharing on the opportunities and services offered to refugees, close to 40% require training on social cohesion and conflict prevention, 37% need training and guidance on the refugee response and 36% need support to set up a digital refugee registration system. Regarding delivery of local services, the assessment shows that 47% of surveyed LPAs estimate a need for local employment opportunities for refugees, over 35% estimate a need for improved community centers, health services, and improved local transportation, while 29% of LPAs see the need for additional kindergartens and 25% for schooling services addressing the needs of refugees.

Using alternative data to survey refugees' needs and intentions

According to **an analysis completed by UNDP Moldova and Orange based on a SMS-based survey completed by 800 refugees**, 37% of them have higher education or specialist degree and that 37% are in search for employment, targeting primarily the HORECA sector, community services, wholesale and retail trade. Regarding needs for access to services, 22% of refugees need access to the Internet, 13% access to healthcare services, 11% access to accommodation and banking services, and 10% access to childcare services. Also, most respondents require organized transportation services if they intend to leave Moldova but not return to Ukraine. For the 42% of refugees from Ukraine, the primary current source of income is donors and charity organizations. Other 20% are counting on the allowances from the Government of the Republic of Moldova, and 12% - are on their savings.

Contact us

The Inclusion and Livelihoods Working Group meets every Wednesday from 1 to 2 PM Chişinău time on Zoom: <https://undp.zoom.us/j/83411777112>. Meeting ID: 834 1177 7112. For any questions you may have regarding the Working Group, please reach out to Ms. Ioana Creitaru at ioana.creitaru@undp.org.

Members

Moldova State Chancellery, National Employment Agency of Moldova, Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova, United Nations, UNDP, UNHCR, OHCHR, IOM, WFP, FAO, UNFPA, UN Women, UNICEF, WHO, ILO, ECHO, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs Switzerland, HELVETAS, ACTED, Terre des Hommes, CLEAR Global, Johanniter, Plan International, WeWorld, People in Need, Help Age, Medecins Sans Frontieres, His Speed, Caritas Moldova, Translators without borders, CWS Global, ICRC Global, ADRA, Keystone Moldova, Centrul Parteneriat pentru Dezvoltare, Palladium, REACH