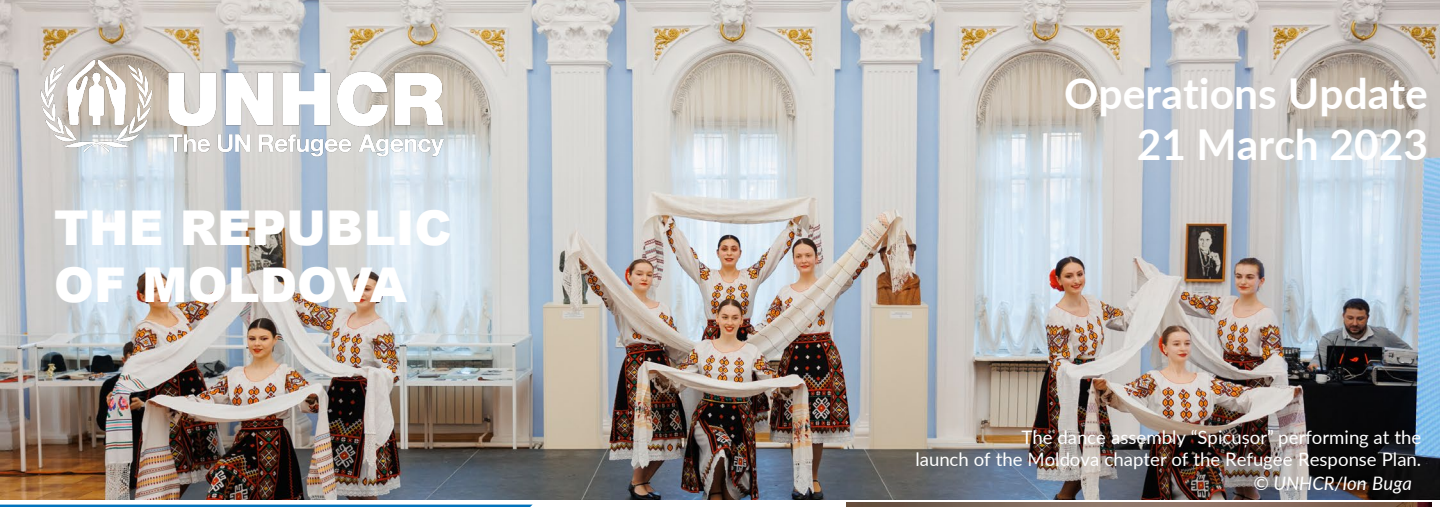
UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Operations Update
21 March 2023

THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA



The dance assembly "Spicusor" performing at the launch of the Moldova chapter of the Refugee Response Plan.
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Figures at a glance

100,366 refugees from Ukraine remaining in Moldova

60% females

46% children

20% elderly

791,093 arrivals from Ukraine since 24 February

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UNHCR continues to deliver core relief items, such as blankets and hygiene items to refugees and host communities. So far, UNHCR distributed over 202k items.

Key response figures

114,381 people were provided with cash assistance; over **USD 81.1M** disbursed so far

91,594 refugees supported with legal assistance

2,800 refugees hosted in **66** refugee accommodation centres supported by UNHCR

4,238 people provided with psychosocial support and psychological first aid

Recent highlights

- The outreach efforts to inform about Temporary Protection continue. Earlier in March, the General Inspectorate for Migration in collaboration with UNHCR provided a training to call center operators from seven different help lines and facilitated a discussion with managers from 10 Refugee Accommodation Centres to answer their questions and address queries related to proof of residency. So far, UNHCR has trained over 637 aid workers on Temporary Protection.

- The website Services Advisor Moldova went live during the reporting period and informs refugees about services available in the country. The platform currently provides information about over 500 services and is available in English, Ukrainian, Romanian and Russian.

- Further to providing written inputs to the 2023-2027 National Programme on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, UNHCR participated on 16 and 17 March in public consultations about the Programme, expected to be finalized by mid-April. Key issues underlined were obstacles faced by refugees to access the health system. Meanwhile, on 11, 12, 18 and 19 March, UNHCR, UNFPA, UN Women and UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, together with Balti, Comrat, Cahul and Edinet local authorities, carried out Gender-Based Violence awareness-raising events with refugees and the host community.

- On 3 March, a broad coalition of humanitarian partners launched the national chapter of the 2023 inter-agency Regional Refugee Response Plan. This plan, produced under the auspices of the Refugee Coordination Forum co-led by the Government and UNHCR together with the UN family and humanitarian partners, appeals for sustained financial support to help refugees and host communities in this country. In 2023, a combination of 73 partners in Moldova will join their efforts to ensure protection, safety, and assistance continue to reach refugees and Moldovans alike.

Other activities during the reporting period

On 9 March, UNHCR delivered 20 laptops to the Community Service Centre in Cahul and to the Multifunctional Center for Specialized Assistance "Casa Sperantei" from the district of Falesti. The donation aims to help refugee and Moldovan children access online classes and stay connected with their families and friends.

On 10 March, UNHCR donated IT equipment, including computers, printers and other devices to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration in the Republic of Moldova. The equipment will support the Ministry's transition to a modern, strategic, diverse, and secure communications portfolio. The donation will significantly help to modernize the Call Center which is at the service of the citizens and registers an increased number of requests.

On 10 March, the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) team trained nine UNHCR staff from Field and Programme on GBV core concepts, safe identification and referral of GBV cases and the six localized referral pathways. A session on working with LGBTIQ+ refugees was also conducted by the Inter-Agency team.

On 12 March, UNHCR attended an event hosted by LUMOS Moldova INGO, with 26 refugee and Moldovan adolescents. UNHCR briefed them on the formal and non-formal educational opportunities as well as on the temporary protection regime in Moldova in Chisinau. Earlier in March, UNHCR conducted focus group discussions with the Roma Community from Ukraine to get more detailed information about the problems they face regarding enrolment in Moldovan schools.

On 20 March, UNHCR in partnership with Internews published the Information Ecosystem Assessment in Moldova. UNHCR and Internews carried out the assessment in December - January with over a thousand refugees and a thousand Moldovans in four locations: Chisinau, Balti, Cahul and UTA Gagauzia. The assessment shows, among others, that the Dopomoga website and the Government's Green line supported by UNHCR are performing well.

On 1 March, UNHCR and the French Ambassador visited the kindergarten "Solnușca" from the district of Ungheni which was rehabilitated by UNHCR.

Handover event at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration on 10 March 2023.

Gender-Based Violence campaign 'Break the Silence' in Comrat carried out on 18 March, including discussions with service providers, artistic workshops for adults and children, and presentations by local performers.

UNHCR operates in the Republic of Moldova directly and through its partners:

ACTED | avE COPIII | AVOCATUL POPORULUI OMBUDSMAN | CRS CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES | CASA MĂRIOAREI | CDA Centrul de Drept al Avocaților | CHARITY CCR | INTERSOS | LAOTALA

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