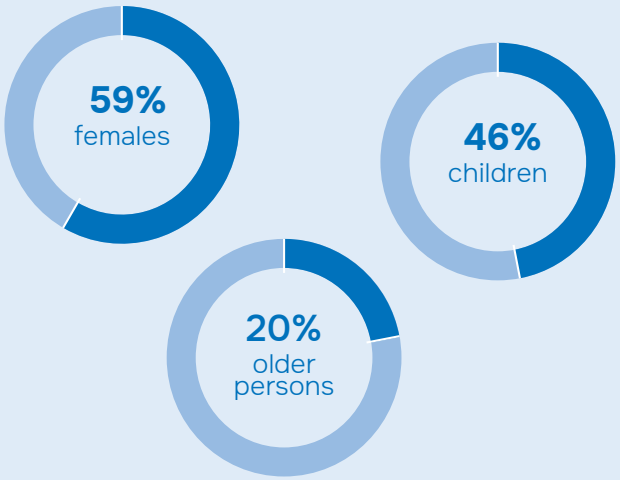
Republic of Moldova

Operations Update
September 2023

Zlata (4 years old) with her mother and brother departing to Norway under the EU+ Air Transfers programme supported by UNHCR and IOM. They fled Ukraine in March 2022

Population figures

110,182 individual refugees from Ukraine in Moldova:



About **1.3M arrivals** since 24 February 2022

Approximately **17.5k** individuals granted Temporary Protection

More than **120k** refugees received cash assistance since February 2022. (over USD 114.8M disbursed)

172k refugees supported with legal assistance since 24 February 2022.

2,374 refugees now hosted in 48 refugee accommodation centres supported by UNHCR.

Highlights of the month

Moldova simplifies proof of residence requirement for Temporary Protection

On 4 September, the government of the Republic of Moldova simplified the proof of residence requirement for obtaining Temporary Protection ("TP"), reducing the difficulties refugees were facing. Refugees from Ukraine can now self-certificate their residence, and TP eligibility has been extended to parents or legal representatives who are nationals of third countries other than Ukraine, and who accompany a child eligible for TP. This is in alignment with the right to family unity and family life of refugees.

UNHCR and partners are conducting TP fairs across the country to provide information and assist refugees during their registration. 550 refugees have been reached with information, of which nearly 300 have pre-enrolled during the events.

UNHCR staff helping refugees from Ukraine to register for Temporary Protection in Moldova during the TP fair session in the Transnistrian region.

Ensuring education for all children

On 5 September, the Ministry of Education and Research, following joint advocacy by UNHCR and UNICEF, published an Instruction that has made easier for Ukrainian children to access education in Moldova, regardless of their legal status. Auditor status has been removed, and flexibility has been added to requirements. Schools have also been requested to provide access for children who continue to follow the Ukrainian curriculum but wish to do so in a school-based setting.

Winterization plan

The Refugee Coordination Forum, in coordination with the Government, has issued Moldova's Winterization Plan for November 2023 – March 2024. This plan aims to ensure that refugees and vulnerable Moldovans are protected against the harsh climatic conditions.

Recalibration at the border service hubs

On 8 September, UNHCR and the Government announced the recalibration of the service hub at the Palanca and Otaci borders, reducing its operational capacity to 50% due to the decrease in the number of entries in 2023. This recalibration aims to focus not only on preparedness and contingency in case of a higher influx, but also in redirecting assistance to promote the inclusion of refugees and support the community living in the surrounding areas. The support includes upgrading of community spaces, refugee accommodation centres, setting up playgrounds, sports facilities, and other projects that benefit both refugees and Moldovans alike.

Capacity-development efforts continue

UNHCR trained this month around 200 partners from local and international organizations, as well as local authorities on gender-based violence, child protection, trafficking in human beings, and protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). The trainings focused on practical skills such as how to safely manage a GBV disclosure, identify children at risk, and refer cases to appropriate services.

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The Moldovan President Maia Sandu, UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Kristin Davis and UNHCR Representative in Moldova Francesca Bonelli meeting with refugee women in Chisinau at the community centre 151.

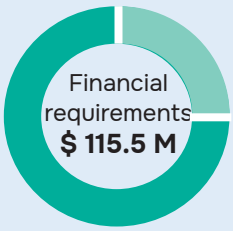
Moldova welcomed UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Kristin Davis

Between 15-16 September, the internationally renowned actress, Kristin Davis met with refugees from Ukraine, listened to their stories, and learnt about UNHCR's activities in the country. Davis also met with the President of the Republic of Moldova, who expressed her gratitude to UNHCR and the US Government for their support since the beginning of the emergency.

> **I was able to meet a group of Ukrainian women and each story broke my heart but also inspire me.**
>
> Kristin Davis
> UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador

Financial information

(September 2023)



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

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The UN Refugee Agency

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

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

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