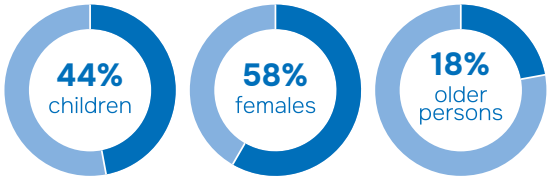
UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency | Republic of Moldova

Operations Update
February 2024

Population figures

~ 117,000 refugees from Ukraine in Moldova:



~ 1.4 M arrivals since 24 February 2022

Legal status in the country

~ 37,000 refugees have been granted Temporary Protection.

~ 7,000 citizens of Ukraine have been granted resident permits, either permanent or temporary.

~ 1,278 individuals are in the asylum system:

205	371	702
persons with refugee status	humanitarian protection beneficiaries	asylum seekers under examination

~ 43,200
refugees received cash assistance

~ 5,000
refugees received protection services

~ 9,000
refugees provided with information by UNHCR and partners

~ 360
frontline responders trained on core protection principles

This section includes 2024 figures only.

Highlights of the month

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Olesea Shevchenko (left), Ukrainian Opera singer, and the "Songs for Soul" choir enchant with their rendition of 'Chervona Kalyna,' a Ukrainian anthem of strength and national pride, at the Refugee Response Plan Launch 2024.

Amid uncertainty, Moldova remains committed to defending human rights and democracy. We are confident that this year's Refugee Response Plan will be guided by high-level collaboration and working shoulder to shoulder to achieve better results than last year

Alexei Buzu, the Minister of Labor and Social Protection, at the 2024 RRP launch

Moldova's Refugee Response Plan for 2024: solidarity and joint achievements

On 15 February, the Moldovan Government and UNHCR launched the 2024 RRP. Over 110 partners attended the launch, including refugees, government officials, UN representatives, donors and private sector representatives. The event featured opening remarks by the US Ambassador, the UN Resident Coordinator, the Minister of Labor and Social Protection, a video message from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and a performance by Ukrainian refugees. It was live-streamed and covered by four media outlets. The event also featured a discussion panel on issues related to refugee inclusion. A document highlighting the linkages between humanitarian, development, and peace actions was published. To read more about the event please click here.

The two-year anniversary of the Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine

To commemorate the second anniversary of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, UNHCR, NCUM, Intersos and partners in Moldova organized a ceremony and a photo exhibition highlighting 12 human impact stories, in addition to various activities at community centers, such as a panel discussion on refugee inclusion, a roundtable with a psychologist, a film screening, and a theatre play.

Supporting government extension of the Temporary Protection regime for refugees

Following the Government's announcement of the extension of the temporary protection, UNHCR organized a hybrid meeting between refugee activists and the National Congress of Ukrainians in Moldova to discuss amendments to the government law on temporary protection based on refugees' needs. 11 representatives from the Ukrainian community present in various Moldovan regions, including Bălți, Chișinău, and Soroca, provided their feedback, which was submitted on behalf of the Ukrainian community to the Government. UNHCR submitted its comments on 2 February as well.

Paving the way to refugee socio-economic inclusion

UNHCR coordinated an online information session for 125 participants from international and local organizations dedicated to the RESTART reform of the social assistance system (which refugees in Moldova have access to). The RESTART reform spans 2023 – 2026 and aims to address gaps in the social protection system, particularly the lack of services for vulnerable people in certain districts. The reform intends to ensure that beneficiaries can access social benefits through online platforms, standardize the costs of services across all districts, and extend social services to the most vulnerable among the population.

Supporting refugees and Moldovans alike through community projects

So far in 2024, UNHCR has supported three community support initiatives, receiving funding of up to USD 5,000, including setting up a recreation area at a centre for autistic children and organizing a series of cooking workshops for children.

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Community Infrastructure Projects

In February, UNHCR inaugurated together with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the General Inspectorate for Police and the General Inspectorate for Border Police a sports facility in the district of Stefan Voda.

The facility is located in a school and was rehabilitated with UNHCR support. Both refugees and Moldovans passionate about basketball, voleyball and other sports will bring life to the space.

UNHCR work on community infrastructure projects will continue in 2024, aiming to foster social cohesion.

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.
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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 cooperation of Moldovan authorities at all levels, other UN agencies, the private sector and civil society organizations.