

On 25 March 2022, UNHCR started a financial assistance program for vulnerable Ukrainian refugees in close coordination with the Moldovan Government and in partnership with Catholic Relief Services, Diaconia, and Caritas Moldova. The transfer value is based on the Minimum Expenditure Basket.

Cash-based interventions are a cost-effective and efficient method for providing aid in areas with functional markets, more importantly is the preferred modality of assistance by refugees. Financial assistance can address diverse needs, mitigate protection risks, and empower refugees to make their own choices on how to allocate and fulfill their needs, preserving their dignity.

Cash-based interventions boost local economies, foster financial inclusion, and sustainable outcomes through a rights-based approach.



UNHCR provides cash assistance for refugees from Ukraine to address refugees' basic needs in a safe and dignified manner.



During the cold season, UNHCR provides additional winter financial support (November to March) with an amount of USD 45 (MDL 800) per household on a monthly basis. The transfer value is additionally based on the Government's winter assistance programs.

Eligibility criteria:

The program is open to Ukrainian nationals or citizens of other countries who arrived in Moldova on or after February 24, 2022, and are currently living in Moldova. Eligible families include those with one or more of the following characteristics:

- Households with one or more dependents;
- Households headed by a single parent;
- Households headed by a child (below 18);
- Households with an unaccompanied or separated child;
- Households headed by elderly;
- Households with one or more persons with specific needs, including: persons with a disability, pregnant women, persons with a serious medical conditions, women at risk, persons with legal and physical protection needs, LGBTI.

Starting from December 2024, in order to access cash assistance, refugees were required to obtain a more secure form of legal status in Moldova, including such as Temporary Protection, humanitarian protection, refugee status, asylum, permanent, or temporary residency, if available to them. Also, new vulnerability criteria will enter into effect later in 2024. This seeks to ensure that the refugees receive protection and safety from the Moldovan authorities, and to target the most vulnerable refugees.

45,542 refugees provided with financial assistance:



women and children



older people



people with disabilities



~ USD 125

(~ MDL2,200)
per person on monthly basis



>USD 19.1M

disbursed to beneficiaries



8

Registration Centres for Financial Assistance

*Figures from 1 January to 30 April 2024

Financial assistance in 3 steps:



Refugees can approach any Registration Centre for Financial Assistance to make an appointment, or call the Cash Hotline to request a home visit. Appointments will be scheduled within 5 days of the request being received.

On the date of the appointment, individuals undergo a registration interview, capturing basic biodata, employment and educational history, specific needs including any protection needs and a socio-economic profile.

Once the interview is completed, refugees receive their pre-paid bank card. Payments will be credited to the account within a few days after their interview. Verification interviews will be conducted on a periodic basis.

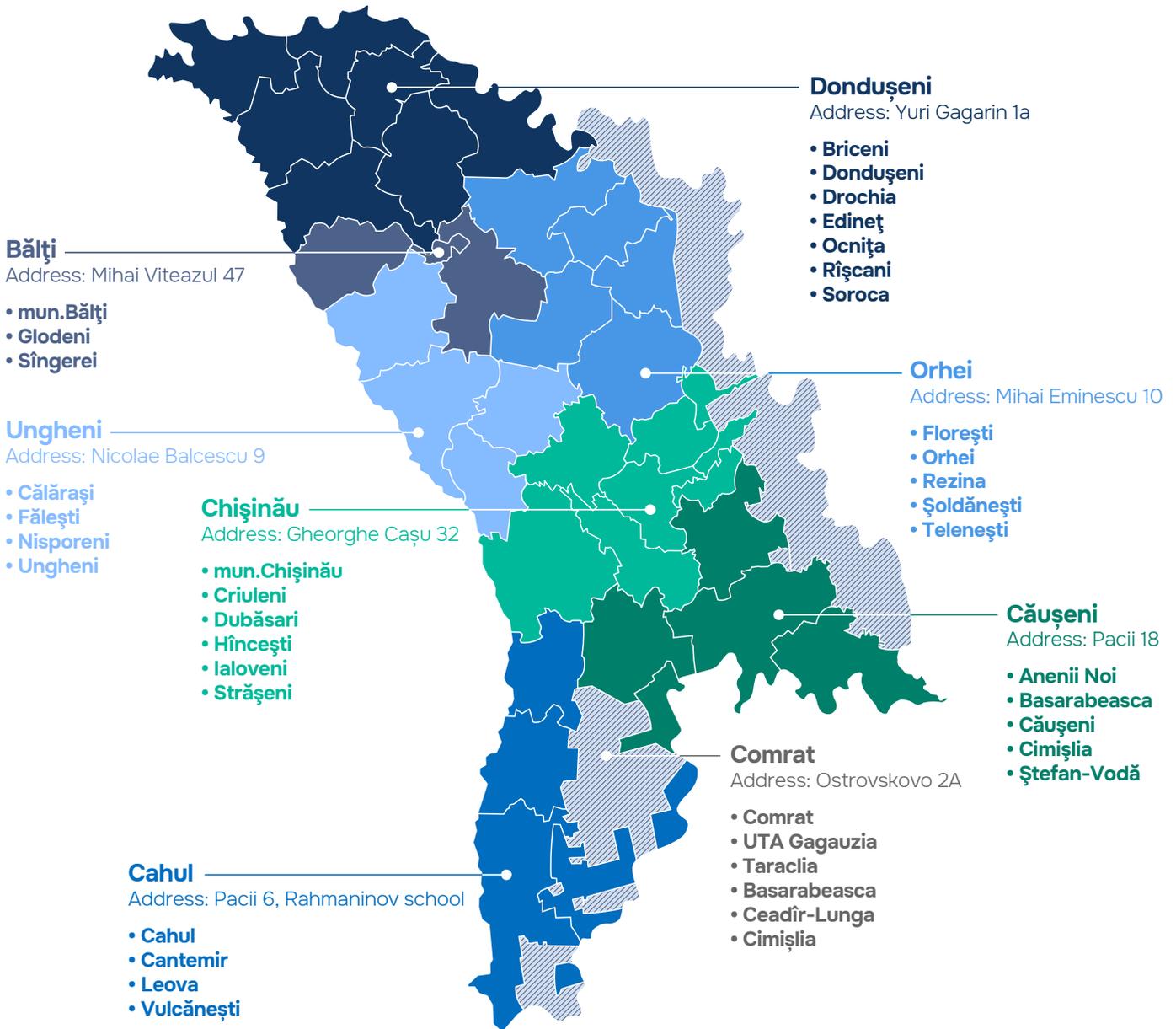


Home visits can be conducted for individuals with limited mobility or medical issues.



The centres have protection desks, operated by Law Centre of Advocates, that provide information and support to refugees.

Registration Centres for Financial Assistance in Moldova:



*The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

UNHCR is grateful for the support provided by donors who have contributed to the financial assistance programme in Moldova:



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



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