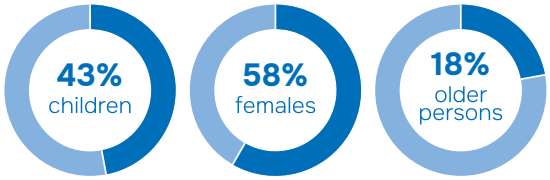
UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency | Republic of Moldova

Operations Update
July 2024

Population figures

~125,000 refugees from Ukraine in Moldova:



~ 1.8 M arrivals since 24 February 2022

Legal status in the country

~ 54,900 refugees have been granted Temporary Protection.

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

~ 2,775 individuals are in the asylum system:

207	431	2,137
persons with refugee status	humanitarian protection beneficiaries	asylum seekers under examination

~ 48,700
refugees received cash assistance

~ 17,000
refugees supported with legal assistance

~ 26,300
refugees provided with information by UNHCR

~ 768
frontline responders trained on core protection principles

*Figures as of 31 July 2024

Highlights of the month

UNHCR Moldova has officially inaugurated the Comrat Community Center, marking the first such facility in the Gagauzian region. The opening ceremony was attended by local authorities, partners, and members of the community. Situated next to a primary school, the Center functions as a one-stop-shop for refugees and offers a wide range of activities, including language classes, handcraft workshops, vocational training, movie screenings, and more, benefiting refugees and Moldovan alike.

> **I am greatly inspired by my visit to the Refugee Accommodation Center, where the incredible experts from UNHCR, WFP and others are working with speed and compassion to respond to the evolving needs of Ukrainian refugees.**
>
> **Dennis Francis**, The President of the United Nations General Assembly

Refugee inclusion discussion

The Government of Moldova, with support from UNHCR, will implement the Mechanism for the Gradual Integration of Foreigners, including displaced persons from Ukraine. UNHCR has deployed two additional staff members to the Prime Minister's office to help design this initiative. The Mechanism will align with Moldova's National Development Plan (2025-2027), ensuring coordination among ministries, stakeholders, and the international community. A comprehensive cost analysis for integrating Ukrainian refugees will be part of the plan, aiding in targeted fundraising and financial support. This will ensure refugees are included in government service delivery systems.

Collaboration on border monitoring

UNHCR operations in Moldova, and Romania in collaboration with the Border Police on both banks of the river Prut [Republic of Moldova and Romania], held a meeting to exchange key information regarding the border crossing of the refugees from Ukraine. The discussion focused on the latest trends in border crossings, effective flow management, and enhancing protection mechanisms. This collaboration aims to ensure the safety and well-being of asylum seekers, improve asylum processes, and increase the capacity of frontline staff.

Targeting cash assistance

UNHCR has conducted a comprehensive household vulnerability assessment for refugees in Moldova who are receiving cash assistance to ensure that support reaches those most in need. UNHCR's cash assistance program in Moldova plays a vital role in improving the lives of refugees by enabling them to cover essential expenses such as food and shelter. This support not only helps to alleviate immediate hardships but also fosters greater dignity and autonomy among the refugees. The assessment revealed that 66% of the approximately 7,900 households are classified as extremely, highly, or moderately vulnerable from both socio-economic and protection perspectives. Additionally, the findings highlight various specific needs among household members, including 13% with serious medical conditions, 13% with disabilities, 12% being older persons, 8% with chronic diseases, and 2% with other specific needs. For these families, cash assistance provides a lifeline, enabling them to access necessary services and maintain their overall well-being.

Evaluation of UNHCR's approach to GBV

UNHCR hosted an independent global evaluation of UNHCR's approach to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention, risk mitigation, and response. As part of the evaluation, Moldova served as a country case study, facilitating interactions between the evaluation team and local stakeholders. These stakeholders included local partners, government representatives, UN agencies, and international actors involved in GBV response. Additionally, the evaluation team conducted site visits to partners' facilities and field locations, including a Refugee Accommodation Centre, a Community Services Centre, and a Cash Enrollment Centre. The evaluation aims to enhance GBV prevention and response strategies.

UN President of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly visits the Republic of Moldova

On June 7th, Ambassador Dennis Francis, President of the UN General Assembly, visited the "Constructorul" Refugee Accommodation Centre in Chisinau during his trip to the Republic of Moldova. Mr. Francis observed the collaborative efforts of the Refugee Response in Moldova and praised the ongoing work. During his visit to the centre, the UNPGA had a brief discussion with the refugees accommodated in the centre. Currently, "Constructorul" Centre houses 132 individuals, including 35 older persons, 38 children, and 13 people with disabilities. It is one of the largest refugee accommodation centres in terms of the number of refugees.

With the support of UNHCR, Moldova's "Peoples' Advocate" (the Ombudsman) launched the "Human Rights Caravan," a series of outreach activities designed to raise awareness about human rights among both Moldovan citizens and refugees. The Caravan will travel to various regions, hosting interactive sessions that focus on promoting understanding, respect for human rights, and allow for people to express their concerns and views.

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.

Austria | Belgium | Canada | Denmark | European Union | France | Germany | Iceland | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Liechtenstein | Norway | Netherlands | Spain | Switzerland | Sweden | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | United States of America | Private donors.

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

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.