

**Advocacy for children's rights:**

UNHCR works and advocates to ensure that the rights and best interests of all refugee children are upheld, with a focus on the specific needs of each child.

**Inclusion in national systems:**

UNHCR supports the government of the Republic of Moldova to ensure that refugee children are included in national child protection systems.

**Capacity building:**

UNHCR works to strengthen the capacity of national and local child protection systems. Both of UNHCR's child protection partners are local NGOs.

## Population figures

~122,600 refugees from Ukraine in Moldova:

58% female

44% children (52% boys, 48% girls)

5% of households included children who were separated from both parents

1% of refugee children in Moldova were living in Refugee Accommodation Centers (RACs), with the majority of others living in private accommodations with family members

27% of Ukrainian children in the country had been granted Temporary Protection (TP)

## Highlights

**Youth Advocacy Summer Camp:** Fifty adolescents (Moldovan and Ukrainian) participated in a weeklong camp in June, where they worked on building an advocacy campaign related to the prevention of child abuse. They chose to focus on school settings, with their campaign to be rolled out over the following months.

**Training for MLSP Child Protection Specialists:** Nearly 150 Child Protection Specialists hired by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP), as well as almost 90 managers and municipal specialists working with government social assistance agencies at the regional level, received two weeks of intensive training on child protection by UNHCR partner AVE Copiii, in partnership with UNICEF and with support from Plan International.

**Children's Events:** UNHCR partners organized children's activities related to World Refugee Day and International Children's Day (1 June) for refugee and Moldovan children around the country. The Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova visited one children's event organized for World Refugee Day.

**Creche Expansion:** UNHCR is supporting the creation of 4 additional creche groups (classrooms) in kindergartens around the country, to increase capacity for both Ukrainian and Moldovan children.

## Key figures

- UNHCR and partners provided **child protection assistance to 11,355 children and families** in the first half of 2024, including case management support, the provision of child specific NFIs, legal assistance, and child and youth friendly activities, including through Blue Dots.
- UNHCR and its partners conducted **183 Best Interest Assessments (BIAs)** for children at risk.
- UNHCR and partners **trained 493 professionals on child protection topics**, including best interest procedures, child friendly communication, and identification and referral of children at risk.
- **Prevention activities:** Through activities to prevent violence against children, 290 people were involved in the development of child protection policies in 10 schools and 50 adolescents participated in the development of advocacy campaigns.



Children in the village of Popeasca, celebrating the Children's Day a day earlier. Refugee and Moldovan children enjoyed a day of recreational activities organized at the Refugees Accommodation Centre. On May 30 and 31, UNHCR in collaboration with partner organizations and local authorities organized a series of activities in celebration of Children's Day for Moldovan and refugee children.

## Operational Response

■ **Identification and referral of children at risk:** Refugee children at risk are identified by UNHCR and partners at border crossing points, cash enrolment centers, Blue Dots, and during recreational activities. UNHCR and partners collaborate closely with national child protection authorities, to ensure that cases are referred and that children's needs are met. BIAs are systemically conducted for all Unaccompanied and Separated Children who register for UNHCR cash assistance, and for other children at risk, to assess protection risks and identify referrals needed.

■ **Case management:** While refugee children are included in national child protection systems, UNHCR and its partners provide complementary case management to refugee children at risk and to their families, in coordination with child protection authorities.

■ **Capacity-building:** UNHCR and partners support the training of national and local authorities on child protection principles and activities, including Guardianship Authority staff, the Border Police, the General Inspectorate for Migration, and teachers, as well as local and international NGO staff.

■ **Prevention:** UNHCR and its partners engage in activities to prevent abuse of, and violence against, children, and to ensure that they are safe and protected from harm, such as supporting caregivers to learn about positive parenting practices.

■ **Child Protection for Roma children:** UNHCR collaborates with Roma mediators and Roma-led organizations to ensure that child protection services are tailored to their cultural context.

## Working with Partners

■ UNHCR collaborates with **UNICEF**, the **Ministry of Labor and Social Protection**, including the **Guardianship Authority**, **local Departments of Social Assistance**, the **Border Police**, and other authorities to ensure that refugee children are included in national child protection systems and are safe and protected from harm.

■ UNHCR implements child protection programming through its partners: **AVE Copiii** conducts case management and capacity building, **National Centre for for the Prevention of Child Abuse** conducts prevention and awareness raising activities, **Charity Centre for Refugees** runs a child friendly space for child asylum seekers, **Tarna Rom** provides support for Roma children, and **Centrul de Drept al Avocatilor** provides legal assistance for children and conducts BIAs at cash enrolment centers.



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On June 20th, to commemorate World Refugee Day, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova visited a child-friendly space in Ștefan Vodă, with support from UNHCR and the partner organization AVE COPIII. During the visit, Prime Minister Recean interacted with Ukrainian children and their parents. UNHCR, along with partners and in coordination with the government, commemorated World Refugee Day with over 40 events across Moldova.

**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.**

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

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

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