Cities of Solidarity Initiative Moldova

WHAT IS IT?

Cities of Solidarity is an initiative designed by UNHCR and implemented jointly with local and regional authorities to promote the protection and inclusion of refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons, and members of host communities in urban and suburban areas. This initiative seeks to enhance access to rights and services by forcibly displaced persons while strengthening the socio-economic capacities of host communities.

OBJECTIVES

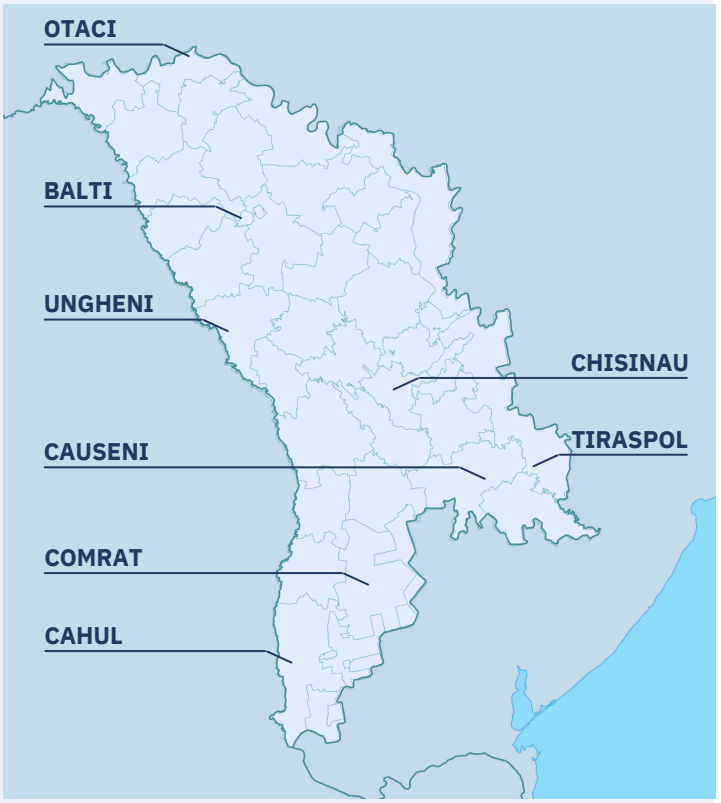
The Cities of Solidarity initiative empowers local authorities and civil society to actively support refugees, asylum seekers, stateless people, and their host communities. Through this collaborative effort, we aim to:

- **Strengthen Inclusion:** Enhance access to essential rights and services for displaced populations, fostering their inclusion into local life and ensuring their well-being.
- **Build Local Capacity:** Equip local authorities and civil society with the knowledge, resources, and tools to design and implement effective policies and programs that benefit both displaced populations and the communities hosting them.
- **Spark Innovation:** Encourage the development of creative solutions and best practices that can be replicated in other cities and regions.

WHY TO IMPLEMENT CITIES OF SOLIDARITY?

UNHCR seeks to strengthen collaboration and partnerships with cities across Moldova. We aim to both publicize and collaborate with their ongoing efforts in supporting displaced people and stateless persons and catalyze support for cities to respond to unmet needs. This will contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees.

WHERE TO IMPLEMENT?



7 cities of Local Refugee Coordination Forums are covering northern, central and southern regions of Moldova with dense refugee population

WHO CAN TAKE PART IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION?

Local authorities lead the initiative with the support of UNHCR and in coordination with relevant actors such as regional and national authorities, civil society organizations (including refugee- and women-led organizations), academia, the private sector, donors, and other national or international humanitarian and development actors.

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HOW IS IT IMPLEMENTED?

Local authorities and communities drive the initiative through:

Joint Needs Assessment: Inclusive discussions with refugees, asylum seekers, stateless people and host communities to identify shared challenges and opportunities.

Co-created Solutions: Public policies and programs are jointly designed and implemented, fostering the inclusion of forcibly displaced people while contributing to local development goals.

Leveraging Community Strengths: Local civil society, refugee communities, businesses, and academia contribute expertise and resources, promoting ownership and sustainability of solutions and social cohesion.

Continuous Improvement: Regular monitoring and evaluation ensure progress and adapt strategies to evolving needs.

HOW DOES UNHCR SUPPORT PARTICIPANT CITIES?

Technical Assistance: UNHCR and its partners provide technical guidance on program design, implementation, and monitoring, supporting the effectiveness and sustainability of initiatives

Community Infrastructure Improvement: UNHCR and its partners support the enhancement of community infrastructure, benefiting both refugees and host communities and fostering peaceful coexistence.

Inclusion Initiatives: UNHCR and its partners support municipal initiatives designed to facilitate the integration of forcibly displaced persons and stateless individuals into municipal services and programs, advocating for policies and practices that guarantee equal access and bolster social cohesion.

Fundraising Support: UNHCR and its partners help cities develop funding proposals, connect them with potential donors, and share best practices for effective fundraising campaigns.

Partnership Building: UNHCR and its partners facilitate introductions and collaborations between cities, humanitarian and development organizations, private sector entities, and other relevant stakeholders to leverage diverse expertise and funding opportunities.

Knowledge Sharing: UNHCR connects cities with successful models and best practices from other Cities of Solidarity initiatives worldwide, fostering a global network of learning and collaboration.

For more information: please contact Inter-Agency Coordination Unit at mdachrcf@unhcr.org