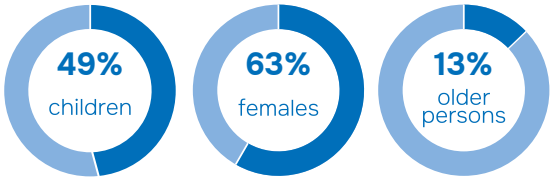
UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency | Republic of Moldova

Operations Update
July 2025

Population figures

~132,900 Ukrainian refugees in Moldova:



~ 2.0 M arrivals since 24 February 2022

Legal status in the country

~ 77,500 refugees have been granted Temporary Protection.

~ 6,500 citizens of Ukraine have been granted resident permits, either permanent or temporary.

~ 1,800 individuals are in the asylum system:

1,163	506	143
asylum seekers under examination	humanitarian protection beneficiaries	Statelessness determination applicants

~ 21,200
refugees received cash assistance

~ 9,400
refugees supported with legal assistance

~ 11,000
refugees provided with information by UNHCR

~ 850
refugees supported with socio-economic inclusion, including livelihoods

*Figures are for 2025 as of 30 July 2025

Highlights of the month

Tatiana, a Moldovan volunteer, supported refugees during a clothing distribution at the Căușeni Community Centre, organised by UNHCR with UNIQLO and partner Laolaltă. For families struggling to afford seasonal clothing, the event offered dignity and relief. Tatiana's warm welcome and guidance helped ensure a smooth process, while UNIQLO's partnership with UNHCR gave garments a second life—meeting urgent needs, reducing waste, and fostering solidarity between refugees and the host community.

> **It's still hard to make ends meet, and we often go without the things we need. Every little thing helps.**
>
> **-Lyuba, a Ukrainian refugee and mother of two**

Strengthening Moldova's protection capacity

UNHCR and its partners strengthened protection in Moldova through initiatives on legal support, child protection, prevention of violence and abuse, and access to education. As part of training and capacity-building, UNHCR trained Border Police officers to better identify and assist people in need of protection. UNHCR and its partners also delivered sessions that equipped frontline staff to identify risks, make safe referrals, and respond effectively to vulnerable individuals. Partner CNPAC, together with the National Youth Council, engaged refugee children and adolescents in health awareness and leadership activities that promoted safety, resilience, and positive peer influence. Alongside these efforts, UNHCR distributed 5,000 updated leaflets to provide asylum seekers with accurate information at entry points and carried out joint monitoring visits to border crossings to reinforce compliance with asylum standards. UNHCR and its refugee women-led partner, the Female Support Force, convened roundtables with the Ministry of Education and NGOs to address barriers faced by refugee students. These discussions eased administrative requirements and opened wider access to higher education. Together, these actions enhanced Moldova's protection system, strengthened support for vulnerable people, and expanded opportunities for refugee youth to learn and thrive.

Supporting Moldova's legal reforms to meet international standards

UNHCR and its partners supported the strengthening of Moldova's protection framework by providing detailed legal and policy recommendations on draft reforms to citizenship, asylum, and migration legislation. This technical support included reviewing draft laws, submitting written comments, and advising on how to bring provisions in line with EU and international standards. Moldova has already taken remarkable steps toward ending statelessness and strengthening its overall protection framework, and these reforms build on that progress by ensuring safeguards against statelessness, guaranteeing fair access to rights for vulnerable groups, and upholding strong protection standards in migration and asylum procedures. Through this engagement, refugees, stateless persons, and other vulnerable people gain stronger legal safeguards, fairer access to rights, and enhanced protection in line with international standards, while Moldovan citizens also benefit from clearer, more inclusive legislation that strengthens the overall protection system.

Refugee councils driving local participation

By July 2025, four officially recognised Refugee Councils were active in Ocnița, Dondușeni, Cahul, and Ungheni, strengthening refugee self-representation and local participation. These councils organised World Refugee Day events, coordinated humanitarian aid distributions with UNIQLO support, collected data on refugee communities, and maintained regular dialogue with local authorities. In Dondușeni, the council went a step further by finalising an agreement with the District Council, enabling refugees to formally participate in local decision-making. Together, these initiatives expanded opportunities for integration and reinforced cooperation between refugees and host communities.

Bringing communities together through culture

On 26 July, the National Congress of Ukrainians in Moldova and Iabloana Municipality, with UNHCR support, hosted an early "Ukrainian Day in Moldova" event. The event gathered refugees, Moldovan citizens, authorities, civil society organisations, and international partners to celebrate Ukrainian culture through music, dance, art, children's activities, and cuisine. Beyond the festivities, the day created a space for dialogue and cooperation between communities, strengthened mutual trust, and highlighted the contributions of refugees to Moldova's cultural and social fabric. Such initiatives not only bring people together but also help foster long-term inclusion and social cohesion, ensuring that refugee voices are valued and their presence seen as a positive part of Moldova's diverse society.

UNHCR-supported protection desks, run by partner Law Centre for Advocates (Centrul de Drept al Avocaților – CDA), offer refugees a safe and accessible space to receive information, counselling, and referrals on legal status, assistance, and protection from abuse. Staff provide tailored support, helping refugees navigate procedures, reduce risks, and access essential services. This collaboration strengthens protection and empowers refugees to make informed decisions and integrate into their host communities.

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.

Australia | Austria | Belgium | Denmark | European Union | France | Germany | Ireland | Italy | New Zealand | Netherlands | Norway | Republic of Korea |United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Iceland | Ireland | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United States of America

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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.

acted, avve COPIII, people's advocate, CHARITY CCR, CDA Centrul de Drept al Avocaților, Humanitarian Aid Center of the Jewish Community of Moldova, CNPAC, CRS Catholic Relief Services, Casa Mărioarei, INTERSOS, KEYSTONE MOLDOVA, LAOTALA, NCUM, tarna rom, UNAIDS

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