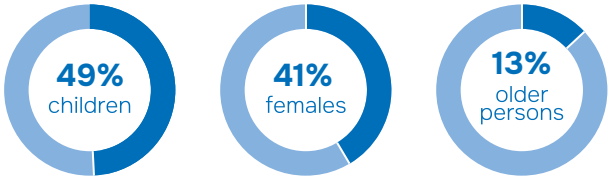
UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency | Republic of Moldova

Operations Update
September 2025

Population figures

~ 100.000 refugees from Ukraine in Moldova:



~ 2.2M arrivals since 24 February 2022

Legal status in the country

~ 81,452 citizens of Ukraine granted Temporary Protection.

~ 6,455 citizens of Ukraine granted residence permits, either permanent or temporary.

~ 201 individuals are in the asylum system, including statelessness determination applicants. *As of 25Aug

240 Recognized refugees and beneficiaries of humanitarian protection.

~ 16,542
refugees received cash assistance

~ 11,790
refugees supported with legal assistance

~ 13,800
refugees provided with information by UNHCR

~ 1100
refugees supported with socio-economic inclusion, including livelihoods

Highlights of the month

Adolescents participating in the Girl Shine programme which offers a safe space for adolescent girls to explore topics like emotions, stress, and self-confidence, guided by trained mentors and strengthened by community and care.

Building confidence, one session at a time

In September, UNHCR's Women-Led partner Casa Mărioarei launched Girl Shine sessions in Falesti, engaging 28 refugee and host community adolescent girls and caregivers. The programme builds knowledge and resilience to help participants navigate physical and emotional changes through adolescence, and it is facilitated by mentors from the community previously trained by UNHCR. September also marked the conclusion of a five-month Gender-based Violence prevention initiative delivered by UNHCR's Roma-led partner Tarna Rom, engaging 13 adolescents. The initiative fostered respectful relationships and gender equality through 24 interactive sessions, leaving participants with increased confidence and knowledge on how to protect themselves and engage actively in their communities.

Expanding educational access for refugee and local children

Tarna Rom also started up their literacy classes in a new location, Soroca, enrolling 16 Roma refugee children and 15 local children, and providing support to advance their educational path. The initiative aims to strengthen literacy skills and support the educational development of both refugee and host community children. UNHCR, in coordination with the Ministry of Education and Research, UNICEF, and partners, also visited schools and accommodation centres during September to identify challenges and solutions for refugee children's integration in the local school system.

> **Thanks to the psychologist from INTERSOS, Lizochka, I've started to enjoy life again. And that feels like a miracle.**

Tatiana, a Ukrainian refugee living in Moldova

September also marked the start of a new school year in Moldova and over 100 vulnerable refugee and host community children, including in the Transnistrian region, received school supplies voucher and backpacks through UNHCR partners Ave Copiii and Charity Center for Refugees.
These efforts help refugee and local children feel supported and ready to take on the new school year with confidence and curiosity.

Strengthening refugee representation in local governance

On 24th of September the Refugee council in Donduseni signed a cooperation agreement with the District Council formalizing their collaboration with the authorities and ensuring that refugee representation is now included in local governance. The Refugee council in Donduseni is one of four Councils that UNHCR has established across Moldova.

Promoting inclusion through sports

In September, UNHCR opened a renovated school sports gym in Causeni as part of its Peaceful Coexistence Project. It provides a space where refugee and host community youth can connect through play. This joint initiative was carried out in collaboration with local authorities and donors, like Germany. Demonstrating strong local engagement, the District Council contributed by rehabilitating the surrounding yard and outdoor space of the facilities. These efforts reflect a shared commitment to fostering inclusion, well-being, and community connection through sports.

Social cohesion insight to guide and strengthen community engagement

In September, UNHCR released the Social Cohesion Report, reflecting feedback collected in June–July from Ukrainian refugees and Moldovan citizens. The report offers a comparative view of community cohesion across regions and highlights both progress and challenges. 82% of refugees say they feel included in their communities, and 60% report a sense of belonging. However, 18% never feel safe expressing their Ukrainian identity in public, and 15% experience discrimination.
Host community perceptions are generally positive, with 75% believing refugees are integrating well, and 58% reporting regular personal contact. However, awareness of social cohesion activities varies, and many respondents feel these efforts could be strengthened. These insights are essential for shaping inclusive programming and fostering stronger, more connected communities across Moldova.

UNHCR Participated in the second annual monitoring visit to border crossing points, supported by the European Union, together with the People's Advocate Office of Moldova, the Lawyers' Law Centre, the General Inspectorate for Migration of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Border Police of the Republic of Moldova.

UNHCR is grateful for the support provided by donors who have contributed to Moldova, as well as those who have contributed to global UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds:

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

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Contacts:

Monica Vazquez
External Relations Officer, vazquez@unhcr.org

@unhcrmoldova @unhcr_moldova
unhcr.org/md

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, ave COPIII, people's advocate, CHARITY CCR, CDA, Humanitarian Aid Center of the Jewish Community of Moldova, CNPAC, CRS, 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.