

Republic of Moldova

February 2022

Asylum-seekers have **access** to the territory and procedures. The Republic of Moldova supports the **Global Compact on Refugees** and the Global Compact on Migration.

The Republic of Moldova is party to all relevant asylum and statelessness instruments. Refugees and stateless persons' rights are **on par with citizens**, barring political and land property rights.

The Republic of Moldova pledged at the **Global Refugee Forum** to ensure asylum-seekers' basic needs as well as their access to health insurance and the extension of their IDs.

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

Refugees	405
Asylum-seekers	42
Stateless persons	3,372
Total population of concern	3,819

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

	Refugees		Asylum-seekers
Syrian Arab Republic	190	Turkey	21
Turkey	63	Armenia	10
Ukraine	30	Ukraine	6

*Data source: UNHCR 2021 Mid-Year Statistical Report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

UKRAINE SITUATION

At the time of updating this fact sheet, in light of the rapidly deteriorating situation and war in Ukraine, UNHCR is ramping up its response and capacity in Ukraine and neighbouring countries, including in Moldova.

UNHCR estimates that up to 4 million refugees may flee Ukraine, with more than 650,000 people having already crossed an international border in search of safety from 24 to 28 February.

UNHCR declared a Level 3 Emergency for Ukraine and a Level 2 Emergency for neighbouring countries on 25 February. UNHCR and OCHA jointly **launched** the **Humanitarian Flash Appeal** and the **Regional Refugee Response Plan** for the Ukraine situation on 1 March.

HIGHLIGHTS

75
new asylum applications registered in 2021

168
new applications for stateless status registered in 2021

216,434
individuals prevented from becoming stateless since 2013 as part of one of the largest national campaigns in Europe to address statelessness

Pledges
announced at the Global Refugee Forum were included in the 2021-2022 Action Plan of the Moldovan Government

AFGHAN REFUGEE AT THE CUTTING EDGE IN CHIȘINĂU WITH JOB AS A BARBER



Yema Torkani, 18, is doing well working at a barber shop in Moldova after he and his family experienced a nightmare of war in their native Afghanistan.

Key Priorities

- **Access to territory:** To ensure that border management is protection-sensitive and respects fundamental rights, UNHCR builds the capacity of government officials, including border guards. UNHCR advocates for improved identification of vulnerable individuals and carries out regular visits to borders to monitor the protection situation of persons in need of international protection seeking access to the territory.
 - **Asylum procedure:** To strengthen the asylum procedure in the Republic of Moldova, UNHCR supports authorities in developing their quality assurance mechanisms and internal standard operating procedures. UNHCR advocates mechanisms that ensure vulnerabilities and best interests of children are appropriately considered in the asylum process.
 - **Integration:** Finding solutions, such as integration, that enable refugees to have a dignified life is a core part of UNHCR's work. UNHCR helps asylum-seekers and refugees find employment and livelihood opportunities, access education institutions, register with family doctors and other health care providers, apply for social protection programmes and learn the State language.
 - **Community empowerment and self-reliance:** Refugees' access to certain services may be hindered when neither the service providers nor the refugees themselves are aware of the applicable legal provisions and rights, and because refugees often do not feel empowered to claim them. UNHCR provides counselling on rights and obligations, social issues, community services and employment.
- Cash-based assistance:** UNHCR provides cash-based interventions to meet specific needs of vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with governmental partners, including the Bureau for Migration and Asylum and the General Inspectorate of Border Police, the National Legal Aid Council, the National Institute of Justice, and the Ombudsperson's Office.
- UNHCR Moldova is represented in the UN Country Team and takes part in the work of the following task force groups: Education, Migration, Gender, Social and Economic Impact of COVID-19.
- UNHCR has Project Partnership Agreements with two NGOs: the **Law Centre of Advocates** (legal assistance and representation, capacity-building, border and detention monitoring) and the **Charity Centre for Refugees** (employment counselling, cash assistance, referral to education institutions and social assistance).

Statelessness

- The Republic of Moldova acceded to both Statelessness Conventions in 2012 and has had a statelessness determination procedure since 2011.
- In the last five years, the Moldovan authorities have considerably reduced statelessness by naturalizing over 150 stateless persons per year.
- Until 2018, Moldovan law granted citizenship automatically at birth to all children born on its territory, including those who would otherwise be stateless. UNHCR advocates with the Government to reinstate this safeguard and ensure that all children acquire citizenship regardless of their parents' status.

UNHCR Presence in Rep. of Moldova

Staff:	Offices:
1 Liaison Staff	0 Offices

UNHCR operations in the Republic of Moldova are managed by the UNHCR Representation for Central Europe based in Hungary.

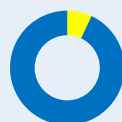
Financial information (22 February 2022)

Information relates to the Representation for Central Europe, which covers Belarus the Czech Republic, Hungary, Republic of Moldova, Slovakia and Slovenia

Financial requirements

USD 5.1 M*

Funding gap 93%
4.7M



Funded 7%
0.4 M

*This amount refers to the initial budget approved by UNHCR's Executive Committee for 2022, prior to the latest hostilities in Ukraine.

UNHCR is grateful to the donors of unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions to the 2022 global programmes. Donors of USD 10 million or more are:

Sweden | Norway | Netherlands | Denmark | Germany | Switzerland | Belgium | Ireland

Unearmarked contributions provide UNHCR with vital flexibility in determining how best to protect and assist persons of concern who are in the greatest need or at the greatest risk.