

Republic of Moldova

February 2023

Global Compact on Refugees (GCR):

The Republic of Moldova offers a singular opportunity to demonstrate the GCR in action: a holistic, whole-of-society response based on rights and responsibility-sharing.

Arrivals: The Republic of Moldova has received more refugees from Ukraine *per capita* than any other country. Per every three Moldovan citizens, one refugee arrived, among whom 85% are women, children, and older people.

Inclusion: UNHCR supports refugee inclusion and sustainable solutions for refugees and the host communities in the Republic of Moldova focusing on access to education, labour, and social inclusion.

UNHCR POPULATION STATISTICS AS OF MID-2022*

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Refugees | 79,477 |
| Asylum-seekers | 8,117 |
| Stateless persons | 1,701 |

Top three countries of origin*

| Refugees | | Asylum-seekers | |
|------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| Ukraine | 75,762 | Ukraine | 7,108 |
| Romania | 804 | Martinique | 361 |
| Azerbaijan | 709 | Viet Nam | 89 |

*UNHCR 2022 Mid-Year Trends and UNHCR [data finder](#)

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of mid-February, **109,400 refugees from Ukraine** had been registered in Republic of Moldova.

Cash assistance: UNHCR's cash programme reached 111,047 refugees from Ukraine. From November 2022 to March 2023, UNHCR is providing additional winter cash support to refugee families.

Non-food items: Over 136,000 essential items, such as blankets, bed linen sets, and hygiene items were provided to refugees from Ukraine as well as to host communities so far. UNHCR works with local public authorities to identify vulnerable refugees in need of support.

Psychosocial support & mental health: Through ten Blue Dot Hubs, UNHCR and partners support access to protection and documentation, and provide mental health and psychosocial support to refugees. So far, over 49,000 refugees, including 25,000 children have been reached.

Support to the most vulnerable: UNHCR scaled up its support to protect children and people with disabilities, preventing trafficking and gender-based violence as well as supporting its survivors.

HIGHLIGHTS

Temporary protection (TP)

UNHCR supported the establishment of the TP regime with technical input into draft legislation and action plans, and with concrete steps to support the country-wide implementation. UNHCR and the government inaugurated the main temporary protection registration centre in Chisinau, which was renovated with UNCHR support.

Winter-specific assistance

UNHCR is supporting the Refugee Accommodation Centres with winter repairs. Winter cash support is distributed to refugee families, while non-food items and firewood are delivered for vulnerable refugees and Moldovans alike.

Bolstering national social protection systems

By end 2023, UNHCR plans to finish works on ten community service centres to expand services for refugees and Moldovans. Improvements to two centres are completed.

RELIGIOUS LEADERS CALL FOR INCREASED SUPPORT FOR REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES



In February, the Government of the Republic of Moldova, Religions for Peace, and UNHCR hosted a delegation of leaders of the world's diverse faith traditions, the Multi-Religious Council of Leaders.

This initiative, bringing together international and local faith leaders as well as the government and civil society to mobilize inter-religious support for refugees was the first of its kind. Read more [here](#).

Key Priorities

- **Access to territory and reception:** UNHCR works with the authorities to ensure that new arrivals continue receiving adequate assistance and information. INTERSOS, ACTED and Law Centre of Advocates are stationed at border crossing points to ensure protection monitoring, vulnerability screening, and counselling. UNHCR and partners organize missions to assist people from remote areas or with limited access to services. Road transportation and air transfers to European countries are available to vulnerable refugees.
- **Temporary protection and capacity building:** UNHCR's concrete steps to support the implementation of the temporary protection included renovating and furnishing of the Directorate for Asylum and Statelessness, hosting the main registration centre and two regional offices. UNHCR is also reinforcing registration capacity, procuring registration equipment, building data systems that connect with other government systems, as well as launching with the government a joint communication campaign.

 The granting of temporary protection effective 1 March 2023 is an important achievement, providing a more secure legal status to those displaced from Ukraine and an opportunity to integrate more fully into the Moldovan society. Those granted temporary protection will benefit from a number of rights and services, including access to employment, accommodation, emergency and primary medical assistance, public education for children, and certain forms of social assistance.
- **Community empowerment and self-reliance:** UNHCR stepped up its work to support refugee's access to employment opportunities. Through the *Robota* platform, refugees can access counselling in applying for jobs in the Republic of Moldova.
- **Bolstering national social protection systems:** UNHCR along with IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF, and WFP

committed to support the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection to assist crisis-affected populations by integrating "shock response" into the national social protection system. UNHCR's role focuses on improving the system's capacity to collect and analyse data.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR supports the Government of the Republic of Moldova in its refugee response and in seeking durable solutions that benefit both refugee and host communities. UNHCR and the government co-lead a Refugee Coordination Forum bringing together nearly 100 international and national operational partners.
- UNHCR has partnership agreements with nine NGOs: ACTED, A.O. "Laolalta", Ave Copiii, Catholic Relief Services, Casa Marioarei, Charity Centre for Refugees, INTERSOS, Law Centre of Advocates and the National Congress of Ukrainians. UNHCR collaborates closely with the "Moldova for Peace" initiative to support social cohesion and the inclusion of refugees.

Statelessness

- The Republic of Moldova acceded to both Statelessness Conventions in 2012 and has had a statelessness determination procedure since 2011. Until 2018, Moldovan law granted citizenship automatically at birth to children born on its territory, including those who would otherwise be stateless. UNHCR advocates with the government to reinstate this safeguard.

UNHCR Presence in the Republic of Moldova

Staff:

47 National Staff
 34 International Staff

Offices:

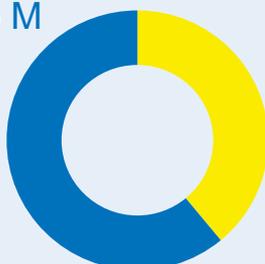
1 National Office in Chisinau
 2 Field Units in Otaci and Palanca

Financial information (February 2023)

Financial requirements

USD 115.5 M

Funding gap
 61%
 70.2 M



Funded
 39%
 45.3 M

UNHCR is grateful for the support from our top government donors of unearmarked, softly earmarked and earmarked funding:

Australia | Austria | Belgium | Canada | Denmark | European Union | France | Germany | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States of America

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