

Moldova

September 2021

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

Moldova is party to all relevant asylum and statelessness instruments. Rights of refugees and stateless persons are **on a par with citizens**, except for political and land property rights.

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	435
Asylum-seekers	59
Stateless persons	3405
Total population of concern	3,899

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Syria	190	Turkey	23
Turkey	53	Armenia	7
Ukraine	33	Bangladesh	7

*Data source: UNHCR 2020 [Global Trends Report](#) and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Advocacy: UNHCR advocates with the Government for the inclusion of persons of concern in the roll-out of the national COVID-19 response.

Inclusion: All persons of concern are treated in a manner equal to Moldovan citizens regarding coronavirus prevention measures and health care. The National Vaccination Plan covers all people living in the country, including asylum-seekers, refugees, and stateless persons.

Communication with Communities: To improve two-way communication UNHCR and its partners established remote counselling sessions with asylum seekers, refugees, stateless persons, and applicants for stateless status.

COVID-19 updated [public figures](#).

HIGHLIGHTS

38

new asylum applications registered in the first seven months of 2021

114

new applications for stateless status registered in the first seven months of 2021

216,310

individuals were prevented from becoming stateless since 2013 within 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

A MOLDOVAN PREVENTED FROM STATELESSNESS



Thanks to UNHCR-supported litigation, Maria Gandrabura, who came to Moldova in 1964, but found herself without a citizenship and adequate documents in 2014, won an important court case and her statelessness was successfully prevented.

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 Moldova, UNHCR supports authorities in developing their quality assurance mechanisms and internal standard operating procedures. UNHCR advocates for mechanisms which ensure that, 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, on 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

- Moldova acceded to both Statelessness Conventions in 2012 and has a statelessness determination procedure in place since 2011.
- In the last 5 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 Moldova

Staff:	Offices:
1 Liaison Staff	0 Offices

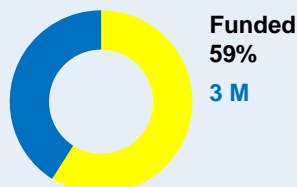
UNHCR operations in Moldova are managed by the UNHCR Representation for Central Europe based in Hungary.

Financial information (28 September 2021)

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

Financial requirements
USD 5.1 M

Funding gap
41%
2.1 M



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