Republic of Moldova

February 2022

Asylum-seekers have access to the territory and the 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. Rights of refugees and stateless persons are on a par with citizens, except for political and land 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*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Refugees</th>
<th>Asylum-seekers</th>
<th>Stateless people</th>
<th>Total population of concern</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>405</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>3,372</td>
<td>3,819</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HIGHLIGHTS

- 75 new asylum applications registered in 2021.
- 168 new applications for stateless status registered in 2021.
- 216,434 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.

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.

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Refugees</th>
<th>Asylum-seekers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>190</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>Armenia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Data source: UNHCR 2021 Mid-Year Statistical Report and UNHCR data finder platform

AFGHAN REFUGEE AT THE CUTTING EDGE IN CHIŞINĂU WITH A JOB AT A BARBER’S

Yema Torkani, 18, is doing well with a hairdressing job in Moldova after he and his family came through 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 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

- The Republic of Moldova acceded to both Statelessness Conventions in 2012 and has a statelessness determination procedure 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 (country name)

- **Staff:**
  - 1 Liaison Staff

- **Offices:**
  - 0 Offices

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

Financial information (as of 2 February 2022)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial requirements</th>
<th>USD 6.3 M</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funding gap</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.99 M</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funded</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.31 M</td>
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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
- Netherlands
- Denmark
- Germany
- Switzerland
- Belgium
- Ireland