

UNHCR Programme Summary 2025

Supporting 90,000 people-in need
with multi-sectorial assistance

\$80.3 million total financial
requirements for 2025

Working with 15 partners of which 11
are local and community-led NGOs

Nina (right), 83, didn't want to leave her home in eastern Ukraine but was forced to flee when it was destroyed. She fled to neighbouring Moldova, where she now lives in a refugee accommodation centre supported by UNHCR and run by local partner. She is pictured here with Zinaida who is one of the managers at the Accommodation Centre who supports refugees staying there on a daily basis. ©UNHCR/ Mark Macdonald

The ongoing war in Ukraine has made the Republic of Moldova (hereafter Moldova) a key host country for refugees. Since February 2022, over 1.8 million refugees have transited through Moldova, of whom around 127,700 remain in the country. As the response transitions from emergency relief to long-term solutions, UNHCR's [Multi-Year Strategy 2024-2026](#) focuses on efforts to strengthen government systems, secure fundamental rights, and promote refugee inclusion through a whole-of-society approach. UNHCR will also continue to provide essential aid to the most vulnerable refugees.

Summary of needs



\$ 8.8 million to support **90,000** refugees, asylum seekers and stateless individuals with legal aid and counselling.



\$ 0.9 million to support **34,000** children and caregivers with child protection services, ensuring their safety.



\$1.4 million to support **4,500** people with specialized GBV programmes, addressing risks and aiding survivors.



\$ 50.6 million to support **28,160** refugees with cash assistance, in addition to **\$ 7.3 million** to support **10,000** refugees and vulnerable Moldovans with non-food items, and **800** refugees with shelter and housing support.



\$11.1 million to support **20** raions in Moldova with community activities, **14,600** refugees will benefit from integration initiatives, and 7 spaces will be rehabilitated to foster inclusion and social cohesion.

International Protection, Asylum, and Statelessness

Protection remains central to Moldova's response to refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons, with a strong focus on the most vulnerable. While Temporary Protection (TP) gives legal status and rights to over 72,000 individuals, barriers remain in accessing social services, healthcare, and financial inclusion. UNHCR continues to advocate for durable legal status and support the government in implementing the National Program for the Phased Integration of Foreigners to ensure sustainable inclusion into national systems. Asylum claims have risen sharply since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, from just 100 in 2021 to around 8,000 in 2024, placing pressure on the country's fragile asylum system. UNHCR partners with the General Inspectorate for Migration, under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, to improve asylum processing and build the capacity of the national asylum system. Despite progress towards ending statelessness, significant challenges remain, including limited rights and barriers to naturalisation. To identify systemic gaps and address documentation issues, UNHCR will map the stateless population in the country. Further support is required to align national frameworks with European standards and to strengthen the legal protection environment for stateless persons.

Child Protection

A number of displaced children arrived in Moldova, either separated from their parents, accompanied by caregivers who are not their legal guardians, or entirely unaccompanied. In principle, forcibly displaced children are included in the national child protection system, but it lacks the capacity to identify children who become separated after they arrive in Moldova, and gaps in the system remain. There are also concerns about violence against children, including abuse, neglect, and gender-based violence, along with a heightened risk of child marriage in Roma communities. UNHCR supports the authorities in reinforcing the referral system for unaccompanied children at the borders. In addition, UNHCR tackles child marriage through engagement with Roma

mediators and community prevention efforts, including sexual and reproductive health education for adolescents. UNHCR also bolsters school-based protection against bullying and promotes youth advocacy to prevent violence and support refugee children's inclusion in the national education system. Child protection services include child-friendly spaces, case management, psychological support and essential items for vulnerable children and their caregivers.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Women and girls make up 63% of refugees in Moldova and often face heightened risks of violence and abuse, exacerbated by financial hardship and limited support networks. Reports¹ indicate that 60% of women identified as survivors of violence, with nearly half experiencing abuse. Many refugee women, now primary providers for their families, struggle to find jobs and childcare, increasing their risk of exploitation. UNHCR works with partners to prevent and respond to GBV, improve safety, and promote gender equality. Programmes like "Girl Shine" empower refugee and host community adolescent girls by reducing abuse risks for themselves and other women around them, with some becoming mentors. UNHCR also collaborates with Roma-led groups to conduct support sessions that help Roma women understand violence and abuse, challenge harmful traditions, rebuild community ties, and gain independence—creating a more inclusive and protective environment for all women.

Basic Needs and Shelter

Assessments² reveal that refugees in Moldova struggle to meet basic needs, with top priorities being healthcare (35%), medicine (28%), clothing (21%), food (19%), and accommodation (17%). Only 1% report sufficient income to cover all needs, while 42% can only afford basic food—forcing many to rely on savings or borrow money to meet those needs. Access to Government-provided social assistance remains limited and covered only 4% of refugee households in 2024. UNHCR continues to provide multi-purpose cash assistance to vulnerable refugees, enabling them to meet urgent needs while contributing to the local economy.

Moldova is in the process of consolidating its Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs). Currently, 25 RACs remain open hosting around 1,300 of the most vulnerable refugees. More closures expected in 2025, increasing the need for support to help refugees move into independent housing. At the same time, UNHCR, in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, is rehabilitating some RACs to expand long-term capacity and improve living conditions within them. UNHCR also supports those moving to private accommodation by facilitating access to employment and community services, to foster long-term integration.

1: Moldova: Barriers to the disclosure of Gender-Based Violence. 📄

2: Moldova: Socio-Economic Insights Survey 2024. 📄

Socio-Economic Inclusion

Refugees need safe and legal employment to support their families, rebuild their lives with dignity, and contribute to the economy. While those with Temporary Protection have the right to work, surveys² indicate that only 46% of working-age refugees (15-64) are employed. Language barriers, limited job opportunities, and lack of childcare - especially for single women - remain major obstacles. UNHCR and its partners provide vocational training, language courses, mentorship, and help connect refugees with jobs. UNHCR also supports the renovation of childcare facilities to improve access to early childhood services, enabling refugees and host community members to work.

While Moldova's local authorities and communities are engaged in the refugee response, they face capacity challenges. Strengthening their ability to lead locally driven solutions is essential for sustainability. The **Cities of Solidarity** initiative supports authorities and civil society to lead inclusive responses that improve access to rights and services. It assists municipalities to develop Local Action Plans, and align refugee inclusion with national development goals, while fostering social cohesion.

UNHCR continues to strengthen community-based organizations through capacity-development, sports activities, group psychosocial sessions, and support to community-led initiatives and community development projects. This approach strengthens socio-economic resilience, lays the foundation for long-term, inclusive development.



Natalia arrived in Moldova with her young son after fleeing the war, seeking safety and stability. Crossing the border brought her an overwhelming sense of relief. Now living in a Refugee Accommodation Centre supported by UNHCR and partners, she has found warmth, protection, and a sense of community. The centre offers shelter, food, and essential services, and helps Natalia care for her children during the harsh winter months. She also receives cash assistance and holds Temporary Protection status, gives her access to healthcare and other support. While life is still challenging, Natalia remains hopeful for the future.

[Read the full story on UNHCR's Moldova website](#) 📄



Republic of Moldova

Monica Vazquez

External Relations Officer, vazquezm@unhcr.org

Salahdeen Abdulrahman

Associate Reporting Officer, abdulras@unhcr.org

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