

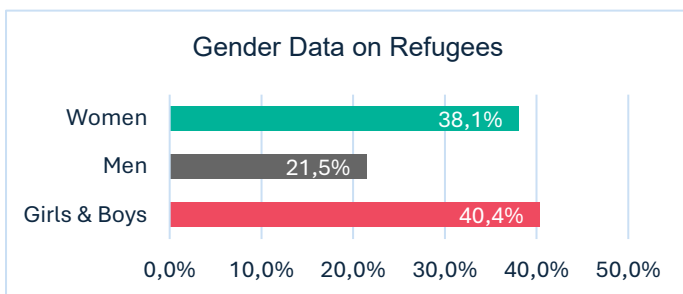


OPERATIONAL UPDATE APRIL 2026

Refugee mother of four rebuilding her family's future in Moldova after fleeing the war in Ukraine. ©UNHCR/Alberto Favero

KEY FIGURES

139,220 Ukrainian refugees reside in Moldova.



92,405 Ukrainian refugees granted Temporary Protection.

6,383 citizens of Ukraine granted residence permits, either permanent or temporary.

~ **5,900** refugees received cash assistance.

~ **5,300** refugees received legal assistance.

~ **5,400** individuals accessed information through the UNHCR-supported helpline.

~ **560** refugees supported with specialized GBV and Child Protection services.

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

As of April 2026, the Republic of Moldova (hereinafter 'Moldova') hosts 139,220 refugees from Ukraine. Refugees remaining in collective accommodation and cash assistance programme are among the most vulnerable and continue to face notable barriers to self-reliance, particularly amid a shrinking humanitarian response and the limited capacity of public systems to absorb additional costs. In April, three Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs) were closed, reducing the network to approximately 780 residents. Due to constrained access to affordable housing and concerns over the sustainability of rental costs beyond the six-month Cash for Rent (CfR) support period, many affected families opted for lower-cost accommodation solutions, including dormitory and shared housing. A smaller number of families transitioned to alternative accommodation through the CfR programme or relocated to other RACs.

In line with strategic priorities, UNHCR further reduced the number of beneficiaries under its Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance programme following a reassessment conducted between March and April 2026. The remaining 5,837 beneficiaries represent a highly vulnerable population: 65 per cent are women, 46 per cent older people, and 30 per cent children. In addition, 79 per cent of households have at least one specific need, such as chronic illness, disability, or single-parent status, underscoring a continued decline in self-reliance.

HIGHLIGHTS

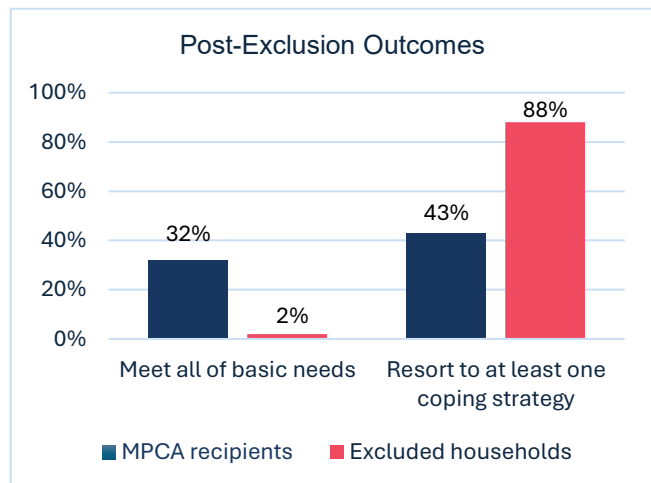
Impact Analysis of MPCA Post-Exclusion Outcomes

Following the November 2025 reprioritization of UNHCR’s Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) programme in Moldova, UNHCR conducted an impact analysis in March 2026 to assess the situation of refugee households excluded from assistance in November. The findings indicate a significant decline in household wellbeing, income security, and living conditions. While some households accessed alternative support, it was largely informal, irregular, and insufficient, leading to increased reliance on savings, borrowing, and private support networks.

Overall, 70 per cent of households reported worsening living conditions and 84 per cent experienced increased stress and anxiety following the discontinuation of assistance. Only 2 per cent reported being able to fully meet basic needs, compared to 32 per cent among MPCA recipients reflected in the 2025 Post-Distribution Monitoring data. In total, 76 per cent of excluded households could cover only half or fewer of their essential needs.

The assessment also demonstrates an erosion of coping capacity. Almost all households reported adopting negative coping strategies, including reduced spending on healthcare, hygiene, and education, depletion of savings, borrowing, missed rent or debt payments, and sale of productive assets. More severe strategies were also reported, such as moving to lower-quality housing, school dropout for economic reasons, begging, and engagement in risky or exploitative activities. Furthermore, food security and access to healthcare deteriorated, with 61 per cent reporting reduced food consumption, 47 per cent less nutritious diets, and 47 per cent unmet medical needs.

These findings show that exclusion from MPCA has contributed not only to immediate material deprivation but also to reduced resilience, increased financial insecurity, and heightened protection risks. In response, UNHCR coordinated referrals of vulnerable households to available cash assistance programmes through the Cash Working Group and continued advocacy to strengthen refugee inclusion in national social protection systems and active labour market measures.



Protection

- In April 2026, UNHCR expanded the Girl Shine initiative in northern Moldova (Bălți) by strengthening a network of 10 trained mentors working with adolescent refugee girls from Ukraine. A two-day practical training, delivered with a local partner, UNAIDS support, and the Youth Clinic, enhanced mentors’ capacity to facilitate safe, participatory, and age-appropriate sessions, reinforcing community-based protection and PSEA prevention. The approach and lessons from Moldova’s implementation of Girl Shine were also presented at a regional meeting of Community-Based Protection focal points, highlighting Moldova as the first European context to localize the curriculum in a mixed refugee–host community setting.
- UNHCR contributed to the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees (EQPR) International Conference, co-organized by the Government of Moldova and the Council of Europe. The event gathered more than 100 participants and focused on the recognition of qualifications and pathways to higher education for refugees. UNHCR’s intervention focused on barriers to higher

education and employment for refugees from Ukraine and promoted the EQPR as a tool to support inclusion and self-reliance.

- Under the EU-funded Twinning aimed at strengthening the capacity of the General Inspectorate for Migration, UNHCR provided expert input on child-sensitive asylum procedures, focusing on the best interests of the child, age-appropriate approaches for unaccompanied and separated minors, and alignment with EU standards. The session included case discussions and comparative insights from Sweden, contributing to recommendations to address gaps in national procedures and strengthen the safeguards for asylum-seeking children.

Community empowerment

- UNHCR advanced refugee inclusion in Bălți Municipality by supporting the development of the second Local Action Plan under the Cities of Solidarity Initiative, bringing together local authorities, civil society, and refugee representatives. The plan will identify key gaps in housing, health, education, employment, and social protection, and proposes measures to strengthen service access and social cohesion. By supporting municipalities in shifting from emergency response to longer-term inclusion planning, the initiative improves refugees' access to services and reinforces resilience in both refugee and host communities.
- On 6 April, UNHCR trained 13 community mediators from the Female Support Force on referral pathways and survivor-centred approaches, strengthening their capacity to identify protection risks and ensure timely referrals to specialized services for refugees from Ukraine.
- Social cohesion and inclusion were also promoted through Roma Day activities on 9 and 22 April in the central (Nisporeni) and northern (Soroca) Moldova, engaging 26 refugee children from Ukraine and local Roma communities through joint cultural and learning activities, alongside school-based outreach with 10 Roma children to support literacy.

"[The local organization Pas cu Pas] helped me tremendously: they explained how HIV works, how to take my medication, and everything else I needed to know, as well as why it's so important to get tested regularly," says a Ukrainian refugee.

Read the full story [\[link\]](#) about two refugee families from Ukraine living with HIV who, with support from national health services, UNHCR and partners, regained stability through continued access to treatment, psychosocial support, and integrated care.

DONORS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**Australia | Belgium | Denmark |
European Union | Germany | Ireland |
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IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS



UNHCR Moldova is also thankful for the cooperation of Moldovan authorities at all levels, other UN agencies, the private sector, individuals and civil society organizations.

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