



IN BRIEF

PROMOTING GENDER-RESPONSIVE REFUGEE RESPONSES AT THE REGIONAL AND COUNTRY LEVEL

Photo: UN Women Moldova

WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

Russia's deliberate invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 has forcibly displaced millions of Ukrainians. During violent conflicts and crises, women, girls and other vulnerable groups are disproportionately affected. Pre-existing gender inequalities are exacerbated and the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse heightens. It is therefore important that the diverse population of Ukrainian refugees receives a tailored response that attends to the specific and varied needs of women, girls, elderly people and marginalised groups.

Gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) has received increased recognition as an essential element in humanitarian responses worldwide. However, there are often gaps in gender expertise and coordination within humanitarian responses, which hinders GEWE from being operationalised. It is also evident from previous crises around the world that vulnerable groups, especially women, members of LGBTQI communities and people with disabilities, are often excluded from decision-making processes in humanitarian responses. This dynamic prevents them from influencing decisions about forms of assistance, means of delivery and different ways they can become agents of change — despite the fact that they have key insights on what is needed to make humanitarian responses more effective.

FACTS AND FIGURES

So far, an estimated **7.7 million people** have fled Ukraine and become refugees in other countries¹.

As of 1 November 2022, an estimated **676,065 Ukrainian refugees** crossed the border into Moldova, and the majority of these refugees are women and their dependent children².

¹ Ukraine Refugee Situation — UNHCR

² UNHCR Refugee Coordination Forum — Republic of Moldova

This project will be funded through the governments of the United States, Moldova and two other countries from September 2022 to September 2023. UN Women's Moldova country office will implement this project in partnership with international and non-governmental organisations (INGOS), civil society organisations (CSOs), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), country-level refugee response mechanisms and related working groups and task forces.

OUR SOLUTION

The project will promote a gender-sensitive refugee response at the regional and country levels by advancing gender-sensitive programming, financing and coordination within and across UN agencies, regional inter-governmental bodies and refugee-response structures. It will accomplish this goal by addressing the gender-specific impacts of Ukraine's humanitarian and refugee crisis while simultaneously ensuring that women and those at risk have strengthened access to protection services and resources.

The project will take a two-tiered approach:

- UN Women will support UN-led, country-based refugee response coordination mechanisms in two countries (to be agreed upon with the Regional Gender Task Force).
- Efforts to systematically integrate gender into the overall Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) will take place at the regional level.



UN WOMEN ACTS AND:

- Facilitates local women’s organisations and networks to engage in humanitarian planning, decision-making and monitoring/accountability processes at regional and national levels. Priority will be given to organisations that work with crisis-affected populations, including those at a heightened risk of exploitation, violence and abuse; LGBTQI populations; people with disabilities; and Roma communities.
- Strengthens the Regional Gender Task Force under the guidance of UN Women, which will also lead regional co-ordination efforts, streamline communication and advocacy and advance knowledge and evidence on gender in humanitarian action. This will be done in partnership with CARE International.
- Provides gender-responsive livelihood and gender-based violence (GBV) response services to women and girls most affected by the crisis. This will be done in partnership with specialised CSOs.

WHO ARE THE BENEFICIARIES?

- Women-led organisations (WLOs) and women’s rights organisations (WROs) directly involved in refugee response efforts.
- Women and men who have been affected by the Ukrainian refugee crisis, especially vulnerable groups such as women and girl survivors of GBV, people with disabilities and older persons.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- WLOs and WROs are included and meaningfully represented in mainstream refugee/humanitarian response planning and implementation and recognised as significant humanitarian and resilience actors.
- Country-level refugee response actors have the capacities to create an enabling environment for GEWE through the design, implementation and delivery of gender-responsive assistance across the Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus (HDPN).
- UN agencies, I/NGOs and CSOs take concrete actions to integrate gender equality and women’s rights into the HDPN both within the regional UN system and the broader regional refugee response architecture.
- At least **350 refugee women and girl survivors of GBV** and those at risk have increased access to livelihood opportunities and acquire assets, skills and opportunities in Moldova.
- A total of **8,400 refugee women and girl survivors of GBV** and those at risk have timely access to quality GBV response services that support their safety and reintegration in line with international and national standards.
- Up to **20 GBV actors**, including WLOs, have increased capacities to deliver gender-sensitive and survivor-centred responses and protection to survivors of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment.

WHAT IS THE PROJECT’S BUDGET?

USD 1,900,182

A total amount provided by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration.

USD 1,600,00

for activities in Moldova

USD 300,182

for activities in other refugee resettlement countries in Europe

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