



FACT SHEET



SUPPORTING WOMEN AND GIRLS AFFECTED BY THE UKRAINE REFUGEE CRISIS IN MOLDOVA

Photo: UN Women Moldova

SITUATION UPDATE

The war in Ukraine has left over 15.7 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, including 7.1 million IDPs. Since February 2022, over 658,800 Ukrainians¹ and third country nationals have fled into the Republic of Moldova, out of which over 96,000 have remained in the country. Out of these 92% are women and children and 21% are elderly. By the end of 2023, the number of refugees in Moldova is expected to reach 200,000 and an additional 700,000 refugees are expected to transit through towards EU countries. An additional 120,000 Moldovans from host communities are expected to be directly affected.

OVER 658,800 REFUGEES
HAVE FLED UKRAINE INTO MOLDOVA IN 2022

OVER 96,000 REFUGEES
REMAIN (4% of Moldovan population)



92%
REFUGEES
ARE WOMEN
AND CHILDREN



21%
REFUGEES
ARE ELDERLY
MEN AND WOMEN

The humanitarian situation has impacted individuals and communities in distinct ways, depending on their sex, age, disability, minority status among other variables. Risks and vulnerabilities increase for particular groups fleeing Ukraine including:

- single women- and elderly-headed households (in particular those with many children) **3%**
- survivors of GBV
- elderly men and women
- minority ethnic groups (in particular Roma women)
- people with disabilities and their care-givers
- unaccompanied children
- LGBTQIA+
- people with chronic illnesses

3%
REFUGEES
live in Refugee
Accommodation
Centers.

97%
REFUGEES
live in private
accommodation
including with host
communities



The Moldovan Government and civil society have responded generously to refugees from Ukraine, in the face of soaring inflation, a severe energy crisis, and growing food and fuel insecurity. As the conflict moves into its second year, sustained support is required for both immediate humanitarian assistance as well as to promote socio-economic resilience and integration among refugees and the vulnerable host populations, and to promote peace-building.

UNHCR Operational Data Portal: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/dataviz/248?sv=0&geo=680> (11/03/2022 to 31/12/2022)

KEY PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS

UN Women in Moldova is providing gender-responsive multi-sectoral services to individuals and communities most affected by the crisis in partnership with the Government, UN agencies, and specialized CSOs, in the framework of the Ukraine Refugee Response Plan 2023. This includes ensuring that refugee women, girls, men and boys have access to relevant, quality humanitarian assistance and support regardless of their sex, age, ability or status, and that their distinct needs, priorities and capacities are considered. It also involves assisting host communities who play an active role in welcoming and supporting refugees.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND COORDINATION

UN Women and the Platform for Gender Equality chair the Gender Task Force (GTF) which works under the Refugee Coordination Structure to strengthen inter-agency coordination on gender mainstreaming. The GTF has about 90 subscribed members from the Government, INGOs, UN and local women's organizations and provides technical gender expertise and program advice to humanitarian actors with the aim of enhancing the accessibility and relevance of interventions for all, regardless of their sex, age or diversity.

KEY COORDINATION ACTIONS:

- Advocating for timely collection and **analysis of gender-, age- and diversity-sensitive data**, producing gender-focused analyses and issuing knowledge products to enhance evidence-informed programming and advocacy.
- **Building capacity** of front-line workers, local government actors and women's CSOs on gender equality in humanitarian action through trainings and other support.
- **Supporting the Moldovan women-led and women's CSOs humanitarian programming** and response, including through funding, information provision, capacity building, and advocating for facilitated access to humanitarian coordination structures and flexible donor funding.
- **Mainstreaming** gender-equality programming throughout the humanitarian response through technical support to sectors.

KEY COORDINATION RESULTS 2022

114 representatives from government, CSOs, and UN equipped with new knowledge and skills about GiHA and GBV in emergencies and are better able to respond.

90 GTF members participated in 15 working group meetings (on average 20 participants each), including INGOs, NGOs, WLOs, government and UN actors.

2 Gender Briefs published and disseminated².

Gender Mainstreaming Checklists adapted to local context and published in English, Romanian and Russian language.

Gender considerations and gender-sensitive indicators integrated into sector assessments.

68 women-led and women-rights CSOs benefited from institutional and programmatic funding and capacity building support on humanitarian action.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

UN Women is responding to immediate humanitarian needs, while promoting socio-economic resilience and inclusion through medium- and long-term interventions for refugees and affected host communities in Moldova, including on the left bank of Nistru river with the focus on the Humanitarian, Peace and Development Nexus. UN Women works in partnership with local governmental and non-governmental organizations, women's and/or youth civil society organizations and grassroots organizations to reach communities most in need.

KEY PROGRAM ACTIONS INCLUDE:

- **Delivering humanitarian assistance, voucher assistance, emergency NFIs, including** clothing, essential products addressing specific women's needs, basic supplies, assisting devices for persons with limited mobility.
- **Delivering GBV prevention, mitigation, and response interventions** to address sexual violence in conflict, sexual exploitation and abuse, and domestic violence.
- Promoting **socio-economic resilience** and investing in gender-sensitive **livelihood** initiatives and **women's economic empowerment** including through job placements, skills matching, and decent cash for work opportunities.
- Promoting the meaningful **participation and leadership of women in decision-making** for humanitarian planning and response, development and peacebuilding.
- Supporting Local Public Authorities (LPA) in providing **localized humanitarian response and work** through the establishment and operationalization of the crisis management cell under the Congress of Local Authorities.

² Brief Analysis on the Gendered Impacts of the refugee crisis in Moldova, Dissemination of the Regional Gender Task Force report on gender crisis

KEY PROGRAM RESULTS 2022

More than **69,100** refugee and host women, men, girls and boys reached across Moldova through various projects' activities including:

4,091 refugee and local women and girls reached with critical emergency food and non-food items (food, hygiene, cloth packages, and vouchers).

1,294 refugees (adults and children) benefited from livelihood and economic empowerment support and opportunities for social integration by participating in cultural, recreation and outdoor actions organized within hosting communities.

1,381 refugee women and girls reached with prevention and response interventions (including for GBV), comprising social assistance, counseling services and referrals through trust-lines, crisis cells, mobile teams (lawyer, psychologist, doctor, support person).

825 refugee women, girls and boys benefited from friendly spaces for study and recreation.

422 professionals, activists and representatives of women-led and women's rights organizations, benefited from skills building to enhance their participation and leadership in the humanitarian response and knowledge on Gender in Humanitarian Action and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, Gender-Based Discrimination, management of emotions in crisis situations, gender and disability-based humanitarian crisis response planning, professional burnout, etc. through training and workshops.

69,100 leaflets, brochures and panels reach individual refugees with targeted information about available support services.

WORKING AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL WITH LOCAL AND GRASS ROOTS ORGANIZATIONS

Given that over 97% of refugees live with or amongst the host community, involving community-based and grass roots organization in the response is critical. UN Women is working directly with local Moldovan CSOs and local government actors to support their participation in the refugee response – including through the provision of funding and facilitating their participation in humanitarian coordination structures and humanitarian planning. Funding is also directed to local women's CSOs to support programs that enhance the participation and leadership of women in humanitarian planning and response; enhance the safety, security and mental health of women and girls and respect of their human rights; and improve the socio-economic recovery and political participation of women and young women in peacebuilding contexts.

2023 KEY PRIORITIES

As the Ukrainian refugee crisis moves into its second year, UN Women plans to continue providing support to refugee and host community women and girls including and strengthening the work along the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus.

Coordination: Leading on gender mainstreaming across the inter-agency response including through coordinating the Gender Task Force, providing technical support to ensure gender-responsive and gender transformative humanitarian programs are meeting immediate and medium-term needs, producing and/or supporting gender analysis, gender assessments and the collection of sex- and age-disaggregated data, and ensuring that voices of women, men, boys and girls in all their diversity inform the response.

Focus on Nexus and Women's Economic Empowerment: Supporting the economic resilience and social integration of refugee and host community women and girls including through access to livelihood opportunities, knowledge, assets, and skills, as well as improving child-care facilities to increase opportunities for women to enter the job market.

Humanitarian Assistance to address immediate needs with a focus on cash for work and NFIs.

Strengthening Protection including Preventing and Responding to Gender-based Violence: Supporting the prevention of violence in communities and strengthening and enlarging the scope of GBV services offered to refugee and Moldovan women, including through strengthening the capacity of local service providers and specialist services, and disseminating information to women and girls at risk.

Localization, Women's Leadership and Political Participation: Contributing to the localization of the refugee response by strengthening the active and meaningful participation and engagement of refugee women leaders and local women's organizations through funding, capacity building and facilitating their input into humanitarian planning.

Women and Peacebuilding: Enhancement of women's leadership in fostering dialogue, peacebuilding and social cohesion among host and refugee women and on both banks of Nistru river.

UN Women Moldova's interventions are supported through generous contributions from the Government of Japan, Sweden, the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), the US Department of State. Through the UN Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund's (WPHF) Ukraine Regional Response, UN Women is extending support to women's rights organizations to respond to the war in Ukraine, working to provide critical humanitarian assistance to women refugees, protect women and girls affected by gender-based violence, enhance their economic recovery, enhance their participation in humanitarian planning and response, and build the institutional capacity of local organizations working with displaced women and girls.