



## FACT SHEET

# WOMEN SUPPORTING WOMEN: ENHANCE LEADERSHIP AND RESILIENCE OF CRISIS AFFECTED WOMEN THROUGH COMMUNITY-BASED INITIATIVES

Photo: Stela Donțu/UN Women Moldova

## WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has triggered the largest movement of refugees in Europe since World War II. As of 1st December 2022, Moldovan authorities have reported over 706,900 arrivals from Ukraine, with over 100,000 Ukrainian citizens and third-country nationals staying in the Republic of Moldova (Moldova).<sup>1</sup> The country has been strongly impacted by the war, which has pushed the country into a triple crisis-refugee, economic and energy.

The region of Transnistria has remained effectively separated from the rest of the country since the end of the armed conflict in 1992 and is not controlled by the government in Chisinau. Moldova's triple crisis, together with the unresolved conflict in the Transnistrian region are negatively affecting the already fragile socio-economic context. Moreover, crises impact women, girls, men and boys of all ages and abilities differently. Their needs and interests differ, as well as their resources, access, capacities and coping strategies.

Based on preliminary data collection<sup>2</sup> and inputs from women-led organizations in Moldova,<sup>3</sup> it is evident that:

- 1. Women and girls are facing gender-specific risks**, such as gender-based violence, human trafficking and sexual exploitation and abuse.
- 2. Women and girls, both refugee and local, have limited capacities and opportunities** to meaningfully participate in preparedness, humanitarian action, peacebuilding and recovery.
- 3. Women and girls, both refugee and local, are extremely vulnerable to poverty in the context of the COVID-19, energy and refugee crises.**
- 4. Collaboration between Moldova's civil society organizations (CSOs) and local public authorities (LPAs) is crucial** to integrate gender-sensitive needs into local response and service delivery.
- 5. The consolidation of relationships among humanitarian actors and CSOs is important.**
- 6. To reach refugees living with host families, better information management is needed at the local level**, through the Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova (CALM) or similar structures.

<sup>1</sup> Operational Data Portal, Daily Population Trends

<sup>2</sup> A series of surveys by UN Women in partnership with IOM: <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/republic-moldova-displacement-surveys-refugees-ukraine-and-tcns-round-03-09-march-22-april>

<sup>3</sup> IOM (16 May 2022). Displacement Analysis Third-County Nationals

## OUR APPROACH

The 12-month project **“Women Supporting Women: Enhance Leadership and Resilience of Crisis-Affected Women Through Community-Based Initiatives”** (1 December 2022 – 30 November 2023) will strengthen women’s leadership in fostering dialogue, peace-building and social cohesion at the community level on both banks of the river Dniestr/Nistru.

### Implementing partners

The **Congress of Local Authorities from the Republic of Moldova (CALM)** and the NGO **“Gender-Centru”** are implementing project activities on the right bank of the Nistru/Dniester River. The NGO **“Center for support and development of civic initiatives – Resonance”** is implementing projects on the left bank of the river Nistru/Dniester.

## EXPECTED OUTCOME

Refugee and Moldovan women from select communities on both banks of the river Nistru/Dniester actively participate in the humanitarian response, foster dialogues and lead initiatives towards confidence-building and social cohesion. Moldovan and refugee women benefit from human-centered development and humanitarian assistance that is delivered and co-designed by their communities in a peaceful and cohesive environment.

**Towards this outcome, UN Women will work to achieve the following two outputs:**

**Output 1:** Refugee women and Moldovan women from grassroots organizations/networks have strengthened capacities to participate in an effective and inclusive humanitarian response, partner with LPAs to support crisis-affected women and foster social cohesion in 10 target host communities.

**Output 2:** Members from Women Leaders for Peace Academy from the right bank of the river and the Women’s Dialogue Platforms from the Transnistrian Region (including refugee and Moldovan women) are further empowered to foster dialogue and confidence-building initiatives in target communities on both banks of the Dniester River.

**To achieve these outputs, UN Women will:**

- Strengthen its work on the humanitarian-development-peace nexus to enable a gender-responsive approach to the refugee crisis, by creating an enabling environment in **seven selected communities on the right bank of the river Nistru/Dniester** for refugee support and inclusion while also strengthening the capacities of host communities to address their development priorities in a manner that is both gender responsive and conducive to social cohesion.
- **Capacitate and empower 50 women**, particularly young women, to act as change makers and leaders for peace, social cohesion and mental health resilience in their communities.
- **Capacitate about 75 LPAs**, service providers, community-based organizations, community leaders and local activists on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).
- **Strengthen the organizational capacities of three Women’s Dialogue Platforms**, established with UN Women’s support in 2022, to engage in gender-responsive humanitarian and peace-building initiatives at the community level.
- **Hold five multi-stakeholder dialogue events** involving local- and central-level women leaders who are engaged in local, gender-responsive humanitarian and peacebuilding initiatives to contribute to collaboration, dialogues and networking around the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

**8,530 EXPECTED BENEFICIARIES**

**2,055 DIRECT BENEFICIARIES**



**6,500 INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES**

APPROX. 50% WOMEN

## PROJECT BUDGET

**723,618 CHF**

*The project will work in synergy with UN Women’s ongoing projects on humanitarian assistance.*

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