



From
the People of Japan



STRENGTHENING THE SOCIOECONOMIC RESILIENCE OF **WOMEN AND GIRLS** **AFFECTED BY THE UKRAINIAN REFUGEE CRISIS IN MOLDOVA**

EXPECTED START DATE:
LATE JANUARY 2023

DURATION:
12 MONTHS

BUDGET:
800,000 USD

SOURCE:
**EMBASSY OF JAPAN IN
THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**



OVERVIEW

The project will focus on strengthening the protection and socioeconomic resilience of women and girls affected by the Ukrainian refugee crisis in Moldova by providing them with economic opportunities and multi-sectoral GBV services. By focusing on both refugees and host communities, the project will foster greater integration and inclusion. It will also promote localization and sustainable outcomes through its partnerships with (and capacity building of) local government and civil society.

OUTCOME:

Women and girls in all their diversity – both refugees and locals, especially those most vulnerable and affected by the crisis – have increased resilience and agency due to accessing gender-responsive humanitarian assistance and tailored livelihood programmes and benefit from integrated gender-responsive, localized and women-centered protection and development opportunities.

OUTPUT 1:

Women and girls, both refugees and locals, have timely access to tailored livelihoods programmes aimed at enhancing their skills (including but not limited to STEM, vocations, foreign languages, public speaking, self-confidence, digital and financial literacy and gender equality) and skill-matching, job placement and cash-for-work opportunities.

This activity will provide financial support to women refugees, enabling their integration into the labor market and/or helping them purchase the necessary equipment and materials for professional work. The beneficiaries will be offered career counseling, as well as assistance in developing their curriculum vitae and preparing for interviews. They will also benefit from professional courses on developing new skills (e.g. Romanian and English language courses).

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Develop and pilot livelihoods programmes with the involvement of rights holders and duty bearers, as well as private companies (if available).

In partnership with national and local institutions, academia, the private sector and civil society organizations (CSOs), these activities will support and advance women and girls in male-dominated professions, particularly in STEM fields or other trainings. Direct support will be provided to assist women and girls in choosing STEM careers, by improving their access to education and accelerator programmes, internships and job opportunities.

Provide small cash subsidies (vouchers) to women and girls from the target districts to support their access to childcare services (day nurseries, kindergartens, development, summer camps and sport centres) and transportation.

In order to enhance women's access to the labor market, a cash/voucher programme for childcare services (including day nurseries, kindergartens, development, summer camps and sport centres) will be implemented.

Create a cash-for-work programme for duty bearers (employers), enabling them to employ women and girls in all their diversity, especially those most vulnerable and affected by the crisis.

Project - "Building livelihood opportunities for local and Ukrainian women in Moldova"

Responsible Partner - Association of Companies in IT Sector (ACIS)

EXPECTED RESULTS:

- **10 career-orientation sessions** focused on motivational and technical subjects are hosted for women and girls (including professionals and non-professionals).
- At least **40 refugee women** affected by the crisis receive cash-for-work employment opportunities.
- **2 fully-equipped digital labs** are installed in schools where refugees children are enrolled.
- **50 refugee women** are supported with vouchers for childcare services.
- A total of **200 women and girls** - including Ukrainian refugees and socially-vulnerable locals from Balti, Chisinau and Comrat - acquire the necessary IT competencies and skills needed to access international platforms that will help them find jobs providing freelance IT services (through the programme Women in Online Work).
- **5 meetups** are held with private company representatives involved in the skills development programme to ensure the beneficiaries have a smooth transition from learning and to advocate for internship programmes within the companies.

OUTPUT 2:

Conduct trainings, peer-to-peer learning and skills development programmes to prepare women and girls to engage in cash-for-work opportunities.

A Financial Education Programme will be designed for specific groups of women and girls (i.e. entrepreneurs, rural women, refugees, other vulnerable groups, teens, educators, etc.). Improved financial literacy will help women choose and access appropriate financial services and products; develop and manage entrepreneurial activities; access healthcare and other services, including support for the elderly; and achieve greater life goals in general.

Conduct awareness-raising activities on skills development and cash-for-work opportunities in the selected communities.

These information campaigns will include hosting events and distributing communications materials, such as “success stories” about women refugees and women from underrepresented groups who have integrated successfully into the labour market.

Support the creation of women- and child-friendly spaces in private and public institutions that provide employment opportunities for women (e.g. dressing rooms, communal “day rooms,” lactation rooms and playgrounds).

In cooperation with national and local authorities as well as the public sector, UN Women Moldova will offer support for the implementation of alternative childcare services and the piloting of the child-friendly rooms. This will include the creation (refurbishment or equipment) of three childcare spaces in the selected districts.

Women and girls, both refugees and locals, have increased access to programmes aimed at enhancing their business skills (*including but not limited to STEM, foreign language and managerial skills, innovation in business, public speaking, self-confidence, digital and financial literacy, access and diversification of markets and gender equality*) and business support opportunities.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Conduct beneficiary mapping and a rapid needs assessment to select the beneficiaries (i.e. women and girls) who will receive business skills development in up to five districts of Moldova.

The assessment will take into consideration the women or girl’s vulnerability, age, locality and type of business.

Provide business support opportunities to the beneficiaries, including a voucher, to directly support and enhance their business skills and development.

This activity will include the provision of entrepreneurship programmes, theoretical and practical training sessions and mentoring support on relevant business topics, networking, coaching, voucher support, mental health and psychosocial support (MPHSS) services as well as childcare services for women enrolled in the programme.

Carry out awareness-raising activities on available business support opportunities in the selected communities.

This activity will target women refugees and local women and girls from underrepresented groups.

Conduct training, peer-to-peer learning and skills development programmes on business topics for women and girls in all their diversity, especially those most vulnerable, and provide them with mentorship opportunities.

Project – “Increasing access to business skills development and support opportunities in Moldova for Ukrainian refugees.”

Responsible Partner – Asociația de Formare Antreprenorială și Dezvoltare (AFAD)

EXPECTED RESULTS:

- A total of **100 women** are trained in business skills and business support opportunities.
- At least **50 women, girls and young people** develop a business idea.
- At least **20 individuals** receive mentoring and coaching, as well as monitoring and support activities to start a business.
- At least **20 women** receive financial support to start income-generating activities.
- A total of **100 women and girls** access MHPSS services and training on GBV.

UN Women Moldova will provide financial support to establish an ‘Entrepreneurship HUB for Peace’ in Chisinau municipality, which will act as a space for women and girls working (or aspiring to work) in creative, cultural and IT industries. UN Women Moldova will engage young and aspiring entrepreneurs, including women; refugees; girls; people neither in employment, education or training (NEET); and migrants through capacity-building programmes to support their employment, entrepreneurship and career guidance. The HUB will also host programmes and provide its members with tools to develop small- and midsize enterprises (SME) at various stages, from initiation to development, training, launch, etc.

OUTPUT 3:

At-risk refugee women and girls benefit from timely, accessible and quality gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response services and gender-responsive humanitarian action.

GBV response and case management among refugees and host communities in the selected districts will be strengthened by applying the government’s Intersectoral Protocol and referral pathways (based on the national legal framework) and providing mentorship and peer support for CSOs and service providers.

Capacity building actions with frontline workers will be carried out to improve the identification and referral of GBV survivors, in particular those affected by the Ukrainian refugee crisis and vulnerable Moldovan women.

Provide structured group and individual psychosocial counselling sessions and legal assistance to GBV survivors in all their diversity, especially those most vulnerable and affected by the crisis.

GBV survivors will be provided with psychosocial and legal assistance, including through existing specialized services or the services of private experts (psychologists, lawyers, etc.).

Provide women and girls in the selected districts with gender-responsive humanitarian assistance based on the rapid needs assessment conducted in the project inception phase.

Based on the existing needs assessment, which helped identify beneficiaries and those most vulnerable, targeted humanitarian assistance will be provided to women and girls (e.g. essential goods, multi-sectoral services according to the needs of the beneficiaries, etc.).

Provide institutional support to local women-led and women’s rights organizations to strengthen their capacity building and organizational development, enabling them to provide timely and quality services to women and girls in all their diversity, especially those most vulnerable and affected by the crisis.

Capacity building and related institutional support will be provided to local women-led and women's right organizations. These organizations will have the opportunity to tailor their existing services to the identified needs of the women and girls they work with, especially those most vulnerable and affected by the crisis.

Carry out awareness-raising activities on referral pathways and existent livelihood opportunities in the selected communities.

Information campaigns will be carried out to ensure women and girls affected by the Ukrainian refugee crisis in Moldova have access to information about available protection services, prevention strategies and resources to enhance their socioeconomic resilience. This can be done over social media, but it will also prioritize communication through direct, face-to-face channels to ensure a wider reach, especially to reach those most vulnerable and marginalized.

PA with NGO "Motivatie"

EXPECTED RESULTS:

- At least **20 women** with disabilities, GBV survivors and/or women from vulnerable groups, benefit from psychological counseling.
- At least **6 women** from vulnerable groups benefit from legal counselling.
- At least **500 women** with disabilities, GBV survivors and/or women in difficult situations, and women from other vulnerable groups, receive essential services based on their needs.
- A total of **70 women** from vulnerable groups benefit from adapted transportation and socializing/cultural activities.

MAIN EVENTS

JULY 2023

Opening of **Entrepreneurial HUB for Peace**

SEPTEMBER 2023

Opening of **2 digital labs in schools**

SEPTEMBER 2023

Capacity-building training for service providers, women-led groups and women's rights organizations to improve the provision of essential services, with a focus on vulnerable groups

OCTOBER 2023

Tech Women Moldova Summit

NOVEMBER /
DECEMBER 2023

Opening of **3 childcare centres** in the public and private sectors

DECEMBER 2023

Business Support Graduation Ceremony

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