

## LIVELIHOODS

IOM provided socio-economic opportunities for Ukrainian refugees, TCNs, and host communities through cash for skills training, microgrants, and language classes. A total of 129 Ukrainian refugees and local community members received cash for skills training, 28 people received online skills training, and 90 people received cash for microgrants. English and Romanian language classes were also conducted. Job counseling sessions were provided to 407 people, and grants were awarded to 20 businesses. IOM rehabilitated three playgrounds and equipped two schools to enhance social cohesion among local and Ukrainian children. Online training sessions on temporary protection status and related regulations were delivered to social workers and the National Employment Agency's employees.

Lastly, IOM successfully developed and launched the Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH) and gender equality course for the General Inspectorate of Border Police, distributing 200 printed copies to be circulated among staff.

These efforts demonstrate IOM's commitment to supporting refugees and host communities through comprehensive health, protection, livelihood, and PSEA initiatives.



O.C.N. Microinvest S.R.L.

Victoria Gulpe is the founder of "GRANOLEYA MIX" SRL, a granola-producing company, which received an IOM small business grant within a program for development and creating job opportunities funded by the European Union.

**129** Ukrainian refugees and local community members received cash for skills training

**407** People participated in job counseling sessions

**90** People received cash for microgrants

**20** Businesses received grants

## PROTECTION

In the protection sector, IOM has provided substantial legislative support to the Government. The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, with IOM's assistance, developed the 2023 national report on combating trafficking and the new national anti-trafficking program for 2024-2028 and its first action plan. IOM experts presented legislative recommendations for amending normative acts such as the Law on Social Assistance and the Law on Social Services to align with the National Referral Mechanism for Victims of Crimes. Draft documents for regulations on the identification of victims of trafficking, functioning of the territorial multidisciplinary teams, and assistance centres were submitted for further consultations and official approval. Additionally, IOM recruited consultants to analyze and harmonize the Republic of Moldova's Law on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings with international standards, considering the country's evolving role as a destination for trafficking in persons.

Capacity-building events and initial training sessions were organized for newly hired specialists responsible for victims' assistance within local social assistance departments and territorial social assistance agencies. Training modules were developed for social assistants, police officers, prosecutors and the medical and education sectors, to enhance support for victims of crime and training for the multidisciplinary teams from all over the country to pilot these modules. IOM arranged training for NGOs in the disability inclusion field, focusing on the identification and assistance of victims of trafficking. Labour inspectors received training on identifying and referring to potential trafficking cases, particularly among foreign labour migrants. Additionally, IOM organized workshops for central public authorities and relevant stakeholders to discuss challenges and enhance collaboration in anti-trafficking efforts. Moreover, a regional workshop for Moldovan and Ukrainian prosecutors and border police officers specialized in combating trafficking in persons was organized. During the implementation period, more than 730 people were trained.

organization promoting since 1951 humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all, with 175 member states and a presence in 171 countries. For more information about IOM's activities in Moldova, please visit <https://moldova.iom.int/>

### About European Union

The European Union is an economic and political union of 27 European countries. It is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. It acts globally to promote sustainable development of societies, environment and economies, so that everyone can benefit. For more information about the European Union's activities in Moldova, please visit [www.eu4moldova.eu](http://www.eu4moldova.eu).



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IOM UN MIGRATION



## A BETTER LIFE FOR MOLDOVAN AND UKRAINIAN FAMILIES

15 June 2022 - 14 June 2024



UNICEF/Moldova/2024/Dogoter

Eleven-year-old Oskar from Ukraine, along with his foster mother Lucia and their cat Red, pose for a photo.

## UNICEF interventions

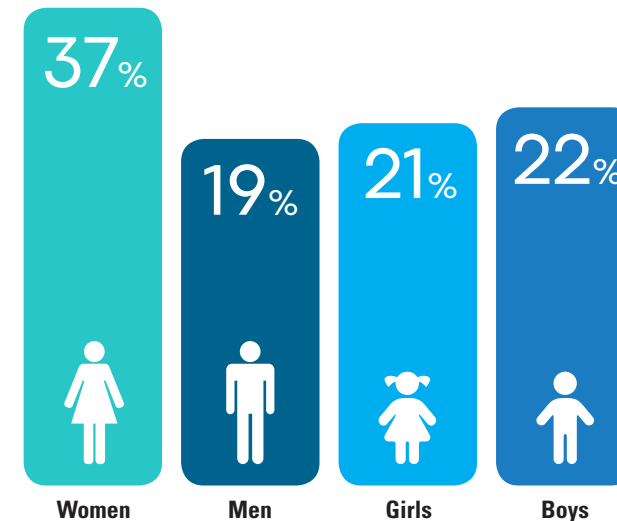
### BACKGROUND

Since the onset of the war in Ukraine, more than 120,000 Ukrainian refugees found safety in Moldova. Of these, more than 52,000 are children. Thanks to the support of the European Union, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and other development partners, strengthened the capacities of the Republic of Moldova to provide quality protection, education, health services and socio-economic opportunities for Ukrainian refugees, especially children.

### CHILD PROTECTION

With the increased number of children and women at risk in the Republic of Moldova due to the prolonged refugee crisis and rising prices for essential goods and services, UNICEF has strengthened its resources to provide technical and financial support to the authorities, ensuring that every child is protected wherever they are. Thanks to the support provided by the European Union, UNICEF focused on increasing access to social and child protection services as well as other benefits according to the needs of children and their families.

More specifically, as part of its partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP), UNICEF supported the adoption of various government decisions and regulations related to enhancing child protection and social assistance structures. For instance, UNICEF provided technical support for the adoption of the National Program on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence for 2023-2027, Temporary Protection for Refugees, Information System in the field of child protection, and the law on RESTART reform with particular requirements to ensure sustainable investment in child protection and the social system. Moreover, UNICEF financially supported the recruitment of additional experts and employees for the MLSP, additionally ensuring capacity building and provision of computers. Also, around 110 child protection specialists and social workers, 90% of whom are women, have been trained in Child Protection and GBV case management.







At the local level, with Chisinau Municipality, UNICEF has supported the rollout of regulations on the organization and operation of the social support service for families with children as well as the activity of the child protection services developed by UNICEF, such as maternal centres for women and children victims of domestic violence, day centres for children aged 0-36 months, commission on children in difficulty, and foster care social service. As a result, through these two partnerships, 58,939 Ukrainian and Moldovan children (55% girls) and their caregivers have benefited from more quality child protection and social services.



Furthermore, with support from the EU, UNICEF and its partners continued to identify and ensure the protection of unaccompanied and separated children from Ukraine. As a result, UNICEF and its partners identified 918 unaccompanied and separated children (816 separated and 102 unaccompanied; 48% girls). These children received protection, assistance, and referral services, including temporary accommodation, placement in foster families, and family tracing and reunification efforts. Also, UNICEF supported the verification of documentation for children transiting Moldova. Thus far, 533 children have been reunified with their families.

**110**   
specialists **90%**

Trained in Child Protection and GBV case management.

**58,939**  
 **55%**  **45%**

Ukrainian and Moldovan children and their caregivers have benefited from more quality child protection and social services.

**918**  
 **48%**  **52%**

Unaccompanied and separated children: **816 separated;**  
**102 unaccompanied.**

## EDUCATION

UNICEF, in cooperation with UNHCR, worked closely with the Ministry of Education and Research (MER) to ensure access to education for all children in Ukraine, regardless of their legal status. To date, more than 2,000 Ukrainian children have been enrolled in the educational system. Another priority for UNICEF has been to equip teachers, educators, and adolescents with the necessary skills to provide psychological support and respond to gender-based violence.

To increase national preschool capacities to accommodate refugee children, UNICEF supported the capacity building of 2,188 educators in 2023 and 2024. Early childhood education (ECE) staff were trained in playful learning pedagogy, a child-centred approach, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). As a result, around 26,000 Ukrainian and Moldovan children enhanced their soft skills, such as creativity, resilience, and emotional intelligence. Moreover, the Ministry of Education and Research included this curriculum in the National Program „Investing in Educators“. Additionally, in 2024, 50 national-level facilitators enhanced their knowledge and skills in building social and emotional learning for children. Thus, around 30,000 Moldovan and Ukrainian children will learn social and emotional skills, such as empathy, acceptance, and tolerance, promoting the inclusion of the most disadvantaged children.



UNICEF/Moldova/2024/Dogoter

**2,188** trained to provide support for refugee children  
educators

**26,000** children enhanced their soft skills

**30,000** children will learn social and emotional skills

**STEAM on Wheels** **12,600** children

Viktoria, 13, from Herson, Ukraine, poses for a photo after finishing her first robotic lesson.

Another intervention, implemented with the support of the EU, was the development of the education system in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEAM) and the creation of new learning opportunities for children and adolescents, including refugees. In partnership with Chisinau Municipality, UNICEF organized 23 training sessions on robotics and STEAM for 180 Ukrainian children in 20 Refugee Accommodation Centres. Training sessions in software development, engineering, and electronics were also organized for 150 adolescents to address gender inequalities and reshape public opinion about the role of young people in information and communication technology. Two mobile laboratories equipped with robotics, computers, internet, VR, and drones were established to empower girls and boys from five regions in Moldova with essential skills, including digital literacy.

Another project, STEAM on Wheels, features a bus equipped with STEAM kits, such as robotics and Arduino sets, which travels nationwide to reach children in rural areas with limited access to STEAM development opportunities. Since 2022, around 12,600 children, including more than 700 refugees, have participated in these activities. Additionally, UNICEF ensured access for more than 500 refugee children to catch-up classes and bridging Romanian classes conducted by Moldovan teachers at summer camps organized last year. Half of these children were supported by the generous contributions of the EU.

## IOM interventions



IOM/Riccardo Severi

In May and June 2024, three playgrounds were rehabilitated and equipped by IOM in Otaci, in the village of Popeasca, and in ATU Gagauzia, Comrat district.

## HEALTH

Through the partnership with the National Health Insurance Company and the Ministry of Health, IOM provided essential services including emergency health services, primary health care services, urgent hospital care, dialysis, and cancer treatment for Ukrainian refugees. During the reporting period, a total of 3,419 (1,833 women and 1,586 men) Ukrainian refugees received emergency healthcare, and 1,351 (724 women and 627 men) received primary healthcare. Additionally, seven patients received 920 dialysis sessions, and 511 (315 women and 196 men) patients received cancer care. Additionally, IOM donated cancer medicines and medical equipment, including two USG machines to the Oncology Institute. IOM emphasized the importance of prevention, early detection, and diagnosis of breast cancer, integrating these efforts into long-term response actions.

**3,419** Ukrainian refugees received emergency healthcare

**1,351** Ukrainian refugees received primary healthcare

**511** Patients received cancer care



IOM/Ana Gnip

The Gamma Probe System CENNA-500W, delivered by IOM to the Oncology Institute, introduces a new diagnostic method in the Republic of Moldova in various types of cancer surgeries